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ANWAR-UL-HAQ KAKAR NAMED AS PAK'S CARETAKER PRIME MINISTER

Kakar emerged as the consensus candidate during consultations between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the leader of Opposition

A SURPRISE PICK FROM SMALLER PROVINCE

Kakar is an ethnic Pushtun from Balochistan and has been a very active politician. He was appointed as the Balochistan Awami Party's (BAP) senate leader in 2018 — a position he held until five months ago. Kakar's name was not on the list of probable for the post of interim PM. Opposition leader Raja Riaz said Kakar was chosen as it was decided that the interim PM should be from a smaller province

ANALYSTS CALL HIM LIGHTWEIGHT POLITICIAN

- As per Pakistan's Constitution, the president must, in consultation with the PM and the leader of Opposition, appoint a caretaker PM who will head a neutral political set-up as the country gears up for general elections
- Analysts called Kakar a "lightweight politician" with little influence, who will need the support of the military to solve the problems he may face

TODAY

ANWAR-UL-HAQ KAKAR TO BE SWORN IN AS INTERIM PRIME MINISTER

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

BJP-backed contractors making charges: DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

IN a new twist to BBMP contractors' allegation that they have to pay 15% commission to get their bills cleared, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday alleged that those making allegations against him and the Congress government are sponsored by BJP.

"Not only Karnataka State Contractors' Association president D Kempanna, but also office-bearers of other contractors' associations have clarified that no minister or MLA in our government has sought bribes. But by politicising this issue, former BJP ministers R Ashoka, Dr CN Ashwathnarayan and K Gopalaiah are trying to protect the 'sharks' using the contractors. Only BJP-sponsored contractors are making such allegations," he told reporters.

"There are many scams in which BJP leaders are involved. I am going to prove their role. This is why I have ordered an investigation," he said. P4

WITH THIS ISSUE
YOU ARE ALWAYS EATING PLASTIC
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

BIZARRE GUIDELINES

JUDOKAS PAY UP FOR INT'L EVENT, LOSE DEPOSIT

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

THE Judo Federation of India (JFI) non-refundable security deposit policy has burnt a hole in the judokas' pockets. The JFI, that is being run by an administrator, framed guidelines last year making it mandatory for judokas to submit ₹50,000 each as security deposit to allow them compete in international competitions.

The criterion apparently backfired when 20 out of 27 judokas, supposed to compete at Commonwealth Judo Championships — 2023 at Gqeberha, Port Elizabeth (South Africa), could not participate due to a delay in obtaining visas. As the participation was cleared at no cost to the government, they not only ended up paying ₹50,000 each to the JFI but also spent more than a lakh per head on flight tickets, registration fees and accommodation charges. The championships was scheduled from August 2 to 6.

What's more baffling is the fact that the tournament, which was meant for cadet, junior, senior and veteran competitors, saw Indian contingent participating without coaches as none of them wanted to spend from their own pockets. It left one junior girl and a boy to fend for themselves with only their seniors to take care of them. Interestingly, the JFI has made exceptions for a few.

"We got visas a day after our flight was scheduled to take off so we were left with no option than to skip the tournament. The organisers notified about the tournament in March but the JFI waited till July for completing formalities," a judoka, who missed the championships, told this daily. "I have deposited ₹50,000 with the JFI, spent around ₹70,000 on the flight tickets and paid ₹19000 for registration and bus transport. I have also paid for accommodation. I will get the nominal refund for flight tickets only," added the judoka.

A strong contender for gold, the judoka informed that the organisers pay prize money between ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh to medal winners which help them recover the cost. Rajan CS, assistant secretary of JFI, who mailed the circular to recognised state associations in July last year, said the guidelines were framed by the advisory board and JFI needs deposits to cover penalties in case of withdrawals.

Congress will rebuild Manipur, says Rahul

Gets big reception in Wayanad on first trip after LS seat is restored

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalpetta

IN his first visit to his constituency Wayanad after being reinstated as member of the Lok Sabha on Saturday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi mounted a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP over the situation in riot-torn Manipur.

Addressing a rousing reception arranged by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee here, Rahul accused the PM and his cabinet of having 'fun and a laughter' during the recent discussion in Parliament on Manipur.

"BJP has killed the idea of India in Manipur. Thousands of families have been destroyed there due to its policy. During his two-hour-thirteen-minute-long speech in Parliament, he laughed, joked and smiled and spoke about everything — about Congress, about me, about INDIA alliance. But, he spoke just two minutes about Manipur," said Rahul.

Rahul Gandhi with a beneficiary of a housing project in Kalpetta | E GOKUL

The Congress leader said his party will look to rebuild Manipur , which has been broken by BJP. "It may take five or more years to restore the love, affection and mutual respect... But, we will do it," he said.

Rahul alleged that thousands of families have been destroyed in Manipur by the BJP's policy. "How dare you (Modi) do this. How can you disrespect the idea of India. Anybody who murders the idea of India cannot be a nationalist," the Congress leader charged.

Rahul thanked the people of Wayanad for their support. "They (BJP) think if they disqualify me, my ties with Wayanad will weaken. You have protected me; you gave me love; you gave me affection; you gave me respect. You can disqualify even a hundred times, but the relationship will become only stronger," said Rahul.

EXPRESS READ

Sudha Murty part of NCERT committee

Bengaluru: Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murty will be part of an NCERT panel to revise textbooks for Classes 3-12, according to the new curriculum under NEP. P7

TN, K'taka must share rain distress: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

IN view of Tamil Nadu government's persistent demand for release of Cauvery water, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that Karnataka has also been hit by poor monsoon and the lower riparian state should share the distress with it.

Addressing reporters here, he said the failure of monsoon has pushed both states into distress. The weak monsoon in the Wayanad region of Kerala and Kodagu district, catchment areas of the Cauvery and Kabini, has affected the inflow into KRS and Kabini reservoirs. Siddaramaiah said Karnataka always released surplus water to Tamil Nadu, but could not release it now because of the weak monsoon.

Tamil Nadu has raised an objection against Karnataka for not releasing its share of Cauvery water fixed by the Tribunal. "We should also take into consideration the drinking water shortage and the distress faced by farmers, who are unable to irrigate their standing crops, in the state," he said.

Water rationing

With poor inflow into the reservoir, the Irrigation Department has decided to adopt an on-and-off system to release water for standing crops in the Kabini "achukut" area.

Presiding over a meeting of the Irrigation Consultative Committee, district in-charge Minister HC Mahadevappa said water will be released for 15 days a month till October.

He said the Kabini catchment area, which is supposed to get 1829.1mm rain so far this monsoon, recieved only 881mm, resulting in a deficit of 52%.Mahadevappa said water will be released for irrigation till December if the region recieved good rainfall in the coming days.

He said 6.5 tmcft of water from Kabini is needed to meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru and other towns.

India get their ACT together

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

IT rained on AR Rahman's parade on the outskirts of the city. The Oscar winner's concert had to be cancelled as a result. Malaysia almost threatened to do something similar but India held on to pick up their first gold since the FIH Series Finals in Bhubaneswar in 2019.

If the 5-0 win over Japan in the semifinals was flawless, this was anything but... Mayhem. Drama. Fun. This pulled at the heartstrings of the capacity crowd before the final release of energy before the final hooter had sounded. A truly madcap 60 minutes had finished India 4-3 Malaysia, with Akashdeep Singh scoring the winner four minutes from time at the Asian Champions Trophy final here on Saturday.

Watched on by former world chess champion, Viswanathan Anand, the women's hockey team, Tamil Nadu chief minister, MK Stalin and Union sports minister, Anurag Thakur, among other dignitaries, it seemed like Malaysia were going to poop on India's party. They trailed early on but a great second quarter from their perspective gave them a two-goal cushion at the half-time break. New India coach, Craig Fulton, has tried to instill in them the value of discipline, maintaining balance and structure and attacking whilst keeping the defence secure. His wards, though, had seemingly forgotten their homework. However, this team also thrives in chaos and that proved to be the difference.

Victorious India team with TN Chief Minister M K Stalin (C), TN sports minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur | ASHWIN PRASATH

While Fulton will look at this match as a learning experience before the crucial Asian Games next month, it's always good to have matches like this before big events. It develops character and gives the team belief that they are capable of recovering lost causes. This is also their second Asian title in this stadium after the Asia Cup win in 2007.

With an Olympic berth at stake in Asian Games (gold medallist), India will be hoping to find order in chaos soon.

Doctors face bitter prescription pill

KAVITA BAJELI DATT @ New Delhi

DOCTORS prescribing non-generic drugs will soon land in hot water. The National Medical Commission (NMC) in a notification dated August 2 advised doctors to prescribe only generic drugs, failing which they would be penalised and may even see their license to practice suspended.

Though it has been mandatory for doctors to prescribe only generic drugs, until now, the violators did not face action. In its notification titled 'Regulations relating to Professional Conduct of Registered Medical Practitioners', the NMC said India's out-of-pocket spending on medications accounts for a major proportion of public spending on healthcare.

"Generic medicines are 30 to 80% cheaper than branded drugs. Hence, prescribing generic medicines may overtly bring down healthcare costs and improve access to quality care," the commission elaborated.

Warning for first violation

In case of the first violation, a doctor may be given a warning and instructed to attend a workshop or academic programme on ethics, personal and social relations, and/or professional training.

On repeated violations, the doctor's license to practice may be suspended, the notification said.

Under the regulations on prescription guidelines, the commission defined generic medicines as a "drug product that is comparable to brand/reference listed product in dosage form, strength, route of administration, quality and performance characteristics, and intended use".

The commission also asked doctors to avoid prescribing branded generic drugs.

A branded generic drug is one which has come off patent and is manufactured by pharmaceutical companies and sold under the brand names of different companies.

PALIKE BLAZE

3 staffers summoned, quizzed for 10 hours

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU City Police on Saturday summoned three BBMP employees in connection with Friday's fire at the Palike's laboratory and questioned them for nearly 10 hours.

"We are not doubting our BBMP employees. But there is a procedure we have to follow. Halasuru Gate police summoned three officials and they were interrogated," BBMP Engineer-in-Chief BS Prahalad told *The New Sunday Express*.

Based on Prahalad's complaint, police registered an FIR under IPC Section 337 (Causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), IPC 338 (Causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others).

A senior police officer said assistant executive engineers Anand and Swamy, and Group D employee Suresh were given notice to appear before the investigation officers at 10 am on Saturday. "They came to the police station at 10 am and were questioned until 8.30pm. If needed, they will be asked to appear before the investigation officers on Monday."

Sources said the employees were questioned as to how they managed to escape without any injury when nine others suffered burns. P3

BOX OFFICE

Jailer rocks, shows the inevitable triumph of the Superstar brand

SUDHIR SRINIVASAN @ Chennai

THE release of Rajinikanth's *Jailer* may not have coincided with a festival — as is usually the norm with such releases— but it may as well have. The film is the talk of the town — and the hype has translated to early box-office numbers as well, with the film reported to have collected more than ₹100 crore, in under three days of its release. What's particularly impressive is how it seems to be faring well across regions — especially in the Telugu states, where reports suggest that Superstar Rajinikanth's film is dominating the native release, Megastar Chiranjeevi's *Bhola Shankar*.

Jailer's success beyond Tamil Nadu borders isn't an accident; markings of it can be seen in the 'Pan-Indian' casting, with top actors across languages (including Mohan Lal and Shivarajkumar) stepping in for cameos during the second half. It is by design that Rajinikanth delivers punchlines in Hindi and Telugu, and speaks a bit of Kannada as well.

Rajini's Japanese fans in Chennai | PTI

Naturally, at the heart of all this success is Rajinikanth, towering like a colossus, enthusiastic as ever to prove his box-office credentials. As sacrilegious as it may be to say this about a star who has remained at the top of his career for more than 50 years, there have been doubts, following the average reception to his last two films, *Darbar* and *Annaatthe*; there were raised eyebrows about the director, Nelson Dilipkumar, whose last film, *Beast*, didn't quite work as expected.

The jury has also been out on whether new-age filmmakers possess the know-how to handle the Superstar's all-consuming legacy. Must they reinvent Rajinikanth, like Hindi cinema did Amitabh Bachchan? Or must they capitalise on nostalgia and cater to a loyal fan-base that demands recreation of old joys?

Jailer has sought to achieve a balance between both. There is enough fan service in here (including tropes and shots that hark back to the 90s), but there are also clever tweaks aimed at making the most of a 72-year-old Rajinikanth. He plays a retired cop; he remains a meek grandfather for a while. Even when the inevitable *Baasha* transformation occurs, there's little fist-fighting; his allies often step up when he's in a state of bother. He isn't dancing in duets; he isn't coveting a young woman. More than a year ago, another film — *Vikram* — did all of this with the other great star of Tamil cinema, Kamal Haasan, to great success.

Jailer, which loses quite a bit of ground in its second half, may not go on to shatter records as *Vikram* did, but its early success once again emphasises what we have always known about the enduring success of the likes of Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan. Form is temporary, but class... that's permanent.

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

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ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 13/08/2023 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Dakshinayana • Ritu: Varsha • Masa: Adhika Shravana • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Ekadasi 7.44 am • Nakshatra: Mrigashira 8.17 am • Moon in Kataka Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER MIN 20°C | MAX 30°C
FORECAST: Showers late. Overcast.
Sunrise 6.07 am | Sunset 6.42 pm | Moonrise 3.20 am | Moonset 4.42 pm

A FLOWERY TRIBUTE TO KENGAL

A model train shows Hanumanthaiah's efforts to turn the Railways into a profitable business

THIS year, the Independence Day Flower Show at Lalbagh pays homage to the illustrious former chief minister of Karnataka, Kengal Hanumanthaiah – who is synonymous with the Vidhana Soudha. The theme, the achievements of Hanumanthaiah, is being celebrated with a grand replica of the Vidhana Soudha, which is a cynosure of all eyes at the venue. There is also a scale model of Shivapura Satyagraha Soudha created from flowers. "Apart from the Vidhana Soudha and Shivapura Satyagraha Soudha, a model train using flowerpots has been set up to highlight Hanumanthaiah's efforts to turn the Railways into a profitable business," says Dr M Jadageesha, Joint Director, Lalbagh. The carpets of flowers is another big draw for those visiting the Glass House. Krishna Chavan, a landscape artist from Belagavi, a participant at the show, has created the biggest carpet, using over 5,000 pots. With just three days to go until close, the authorities are expecting a huge crowd.

The Independence Day Flower Show at Lalbagh in Bengaluru is showcasing replicas of Vidhana Soudha and Shivapura Satyagraha Soudha, carpets of flowers, Akshara Mala, and scenes from the Freedom Struggle. These have attracted huge crowds. With three days to go, the authorities are expecting a huge surge in footfalls | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

An Udupi artiste uses talamaddale, an oratory art medium involving mythological plots, to portray India's freedom struggle and other historical and contemporary events

REKINDLING PATRIOTISM

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

SUDHAKAR Acharya, a lover of art and organiser of 'talamaddale', has a deep respect for India's freedom struggle. Acharya (62) has organised 'talamaddale' with the plots revolving around the freedom struggle, Independence, accession of Hyderabad in 1948 and even contemporary developments like abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, that had bestowed special status on Jammu and Kashmir.

Talamaddale is a form of art where impromptu debates take place between characters, and where oratory skills alone help story narration. Generally, the plots are woven around characters drawn from mythology, and there about 100 such plots.

But Acharya's journey has been different. His love for talamaddale began a few decades ago, and he organised the first one on August 15, 1990. It was the year of his marriage with Amitha Acharya. The 'Magadha Vadhe' plot was narrated with eminent artistes. Since 1990, he has been organising talamaddale every year, except in the pandemic year.

Acharya, who is into advertising and real estate business in Udupi, was by chance drawn to organise a plot that revolved around freedom and Independence, in 2016. He has felicitated many senior Yakshagana artistes and family members of freedom fighters.

How he came to incorporate historical events into talamaddale is an interesting tale. The owner of an Ayurvedic medicine shop -- Sudheendra Theertha Oushadha Bhandara in Car Street, Udupi -- brought to Acharya's notice that a talamaddale was organised on August 14, 1947 (from 8pm to 12am) in front of the historic Sri Anantheshwara Temple in Car Street, Udupi. The plot narrated then was 'Swarajya Vijaya', for which the script was written by M V Hegde, a newspaper editor.

Mark these dates

'Kashmira Vijaya' talamaddale will be organised in Udupi on August 15, in Puttur (Dakshina Kannada district) on August 19, and at Kumbhashi Sri Vinayaka Temple on September 18

With this information, Acharya contacted U Vinith Rao, coordinator at Gandhian Study Centre (GSC), MGM College, Udupi, for more details from the archives. When he got all the material in 2015, he decided to organise 'Swarajya Vijaya' talamaddale on August 14, 2016, the 70th year of Independence and silver jubilee of his talamaddale journey. Acharya also got 'Prasanga Pusthaka', a reference book containing the script of 'Swarajya Vijaya' plot, for which he had approached Prof M L Samaga, former president of the Karnataka Yakshagana Bayalata Academy.

Pejavar Mutt seer Sri Vishwesha Theertha Swami's fifth paryaya stint had begun in January 2016 and Acharya had approached the senior pontiff to know how the historic event of 'Swarajya Vijaya' talamaddale can be recreated. The senior pontiff was present during the 'Swarajya Vijaya' talamaddale in front of Sri Anantheshwara Temple in the night of August 14, 1947, and the recreated version on August 14, 2016. Around 2,000 people participated and understood the importance of the historic event of India gaining freedom, and the struggle behind it.

During this event, late Sri Vishwesha Theertha Swami revealed that the 'Hyderabad Vijaya' talamaddale plot was presented in the 'Bhojana Shala' (dining hall) of Sri Krishna Mutt in 1948, and asked Sudhakar Acharya if could organise the 'Hyderabad Vijaya' talamaddale focusing on the accession of Hyderabad to the Indian Union. Acharya followed the seer's instruction and organised 'Hyderabad Vijaya' in Udupi in 2017. After Article 370 was abrogated on August 5, 2019, Acharya decided to organise 'Kashmira Vijaya'. Prof Pavan Kirankere wrote the script for 'Kashmira Vijaya' and Acharya organised it in Udupi and Mangaluru in January this year.

Acharya said he is happy that with the support of his family members and Yakshagana art lovers, he has rekindled patriotism among the people through talamaddale. M L Samaga told *TNSE* that presenting historical events through talamaddale is challenging, as the artistes need to study the historical background and facts. "Several characters like that of Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Lord Mountbatten, Nizam of Hyderabad, Satya Pal Malik, former governor of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state and Centre's special representative for Kashmir Dineshwar Sharma are portrayed in these three plots of talamaddale," he added.

Prof Pavan Kirankere told *TNSE* that in 'Kashmira Vijaya' talamaddale, both aspects are presented to the audience -- those in support of abrogation of Article 370 and those who seek to restore special status to Jammu and Kashmir, while the theme centres around the fact that Kashmir is an integral part of India.

'Kashmira Vijaya' talamaddale that was held in Udupi in January this year. (Top) Sudhakar Acharya | EXPRESS

SHIVARAM KARANTH LAYOUT

Those who lost their land should be compensated on priority, says DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

"All those who have lost their land should be given compensation on priority basis. We have taken important decisions related to the Shivaram Karanth Layout. We have also discussed our decisions with the committee formed by the Supreme Court. BDA officials agreed that the decision was reasonable," Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar told the media, after inspecting the layout on Saturday.

Sharing his views on the land earmarked for the setting up of a stadium, Shivakumar said, "I am not satisfied with the place identified to set up a stadium similar to Sri Kanteerava Stadium. The stadium should ideally be located next to the park on the 45-metre road. When Metro trains are introduced to the area, the stadium should be next to a Metro station, and I have instructed officials to take suitable measures based on my suggestion."

"For the stadium 25-45 acres of land has been reserved," he said.

"Instructions have been given to officials not to allocate any plot directly to anyone near the 45-metre road. The land should be used for commercial purposes and this should benefit the BDA and the government. I have told them to formulate a policy for this," the deputy CM said, adding that the farmers who have lost their land should get better prices and they have taken important decisions for that. Shivakumar said that directions have been given to reserve land for setting up of an IT hub near the layout too.

Replying to a question on when the land will be allotted, he said, "First priority will be given to the land allotment and only after that the rest of the works will start."

"At present, work is under way in 2,500 acres of land. I will talk to revenue officials about the remaining land and discuss the legal complications."

On farmers complaining that they are not being compensated properly, Shivakumar said, "I am working hard to provide justice to them. We will allot land to them as directed by the Supreme Court, and I cannot decide beyond the direction of the Supreme Court."

Instructions have been given to officials not to allocate any plot directly to anyone near the 45-metre road. The land should be used for commercial purposes and this should benefit the BDA and the government

DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

KSRTC to hire 500 drivers through private agency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WHILE the government-run bus corporations are struggling with driver shortage, the KSRTC has planned to recruit 500 drivers immediately through a private agency. A top official from the bus corporation has revealed that all four corporations -- Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC), North West Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) -- put together have a shortage of over 15,000 staff, that include drivers.

"Due to the shortage of staff, including drivers, it is difficult to deliver services effectively, especially after the launch of the Shakti scheme in June. While measures are being taken to recruit staff, it will take at least a year to complete the whole recruitment process. So the bus corporation (KSRTC) wants drivers immediately and the task will be handed over to a private agency through the e-tender process," the official said, adding that the drivers recruited through the agency will not be given any incentives.

The recruited drivers will not be immediately allowed to operate buses. They will be put through several rounds of tests and training before being absorbed by the bus corporation. This training will last over two months. Then they will be posted to different divisions like Mangaluru and Ramanagara, based on the shortage across the state only after that, the official said, reiterating that they are looking to hire around 500 drivers for a period of 11 months.

EXPRESS READ

DyCM visits SWM units

BENGALURU: DyCM DK Shivakumar ordered BBMP officials to arrange four entry and exit gates for Bellahalli and Mitaganahalli solid waste disposal units, after he noticed garbage trucks lined up there for hours, during a visit.

Corrigendum: The New Indian Express, in its edition dated August 12, 2023, inadvertently published a photograph with the Tricolour upside down. The error is regretted.

SLBC meeting held with stakeholders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE 162nd meeting of the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) was held on Friday, at Vidhana Soudha, and was chaired by Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma. Several stakeholders were present, such as Ramana Reddy EV, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka; PN Raghunath, Chief General Manager and OIC, Reserve Bank of India; Sunanda Batra, General Manager, FIDD, Reserve Bank of India; T Ramesh, Chief General Manager, NABARD; Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia, Executive Director, Canara Bank; and M Bhaskara Chakravarthy, Convenor, SLBC and General Manager, Canara Bank.

Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma at the SLBC meeting at Vidhana Soudha

The total priority sector advances' (PSA) achievement for FY2023-24 in the June quarter stood at Rs 1,08,811 crore (29.72%), which includes agriculture achievement of Rs 47,309 crore (26.66%) and MSE/MSME of Rs 57,317 crore (43.38%).

Three members of a family were electrocuted near a borewell at an under-construction building at Shahu Nagar in Belagavi city on Saturday. Police said house owner Sarojini Narasimhanwar, engineer and HESCOM officials have been booked for negligence

PALIKE BLAZE: KIN SEE PATIENTS FOR A FEW MINUTES

All the patients are under close watch, likely to be kept in the ICU for 2-3 weeks

NAMRATA SINDWANI @Bengaluru

FAMILY members of Chief Engineer Shivakumar (40), including his wife, sat in front of the ICU all day on Saturday at Victoria Hospital's trauma care centre. Shivakumar is one of the three BBMP employees who suffered serious burns after a mysterious fire at the BBMP's quality control room on Friday.

Shivakumar's relative said, "He has burns on his face, hands and legs. Due to facial burns he is unable to eat any solid food. We met him only for a couple of minutes." His wife said, "He has sustained first-degree burns. He is conscious and stable now."

Shivakumar is being treated at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI). Institute's dean and director Dr Ramesh Krishna said Shivakumar's voice is a little hoarse and is also suffering from oliguria (difficulty in urination)."

Two other critical patients Jyothi (26) and Kiran (35) along with Shivakumar have also undergone chest X-rays which have not shown any irregularities, Dr Krishna said.

Jyothi's face has puffed up, while she is also facing some respiratory issues. Kiran suffers from other comorbidities and had to undergo dialysis again on Saturday. Shivakumar has developed hoarseness due to respiratory irritation.

Shashi Kumar, brother of another victim—Santhosh Kumar (47), said Santhosh is stable, but is facing difficulty in swallowing solid food.

Though the doctors had said on Friday that the critical patients had suffered 30-40 per cent burns, it was clarified the extent of burns is 11-28 per cent.

All the patients are under close watch for the next 24-48 hours as the first week of treatment is crucial for burns patients. They are likely to be kept in the ICU for 2-3 weeks, Dr Krishna added.

AAP: Fire preplanned

Bengaluru: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) suspects that the fire at the BBMP head office was a "preplanned act" to destroy documents of project works worth crores of rupees. The party has sought clarification from the BBMP and the state government on the mishap. It insisted that the CBI probe the incident as important documents may have been destroyed in the fire. AAP state V-P Mohan Dasari, who led a delegation to the spot, took a dig at the administration as fire safety measures were not given priority at an important place like the BBMP head office.

He (Chief Engineer Shivakumar) has burns on his face, hands and legs. Due to facial burns he is unable to eat any solid food. We met him only for a couple of minutes

—Relative

Barricades were placed outside the BBMP head office after Friday's fire incident | VINOD KUMAR T

DO NOT JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSION, SAYS SHIVAKUMAR

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said, "Till the completion of the investigations into the blaze at the BBMP's quality control lab, let us not come to any conclusion." Addressing reporters, he said that he will take back the statement from the official media handles of the Congress party that the "incident is pre-planned". "I have ordered inquiries into the case by teams of BBMP officials, police and elected representatives. The lab is at the wrong location. It should have been in an open area," he said. Asked if there were incidents of fire in the past that destroyed important files, he said such an incident had happened in the past. But this time, files were not damaged in the blaze. Efforts are being made to shift them to a safe place, he added. **ENS**

3 teams conduct investigation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MEANWHILE, a purported conversation over the phone between Amruth Raj, president of the BBMP Officers' and Staff Association, and Anand has gone viral.

In the conversation, Anand is heard saying that he noticed a two-litre can containing benzene catching fire near the staircase leading to the first floor of the laboratory building.

"Nothing happened to us because we were on the ground floor. As the fire broke out near the staircase where the experiment was being done, those upstairs could not get out. So, they suffered burns. We tried to douse the blaze along with others outside. Later, we took the injured to hospital in a police vehicle," Anand is heard telling Amruth Raj.

The state government has decided to conduct separate investigations by three teams.

The blaze at the laboratory in the BBMP head office assumes significance as contractors are at loggerheads with the state government after it ordered a probe into works done by them in Bengaluru from 2019 to 2022. It is alleged that some contractors got funds released from the Palike by producing fake bills with the help of some influential politicians. Those who had produced the fake bills and their leaders might be behind the blaze at BBMP's laboratory.

All nine victims under treatment at Victoria Hospital are out of danger. Dr Ramesh Krishna, dean and director of the hospital, said, "They are under observation. Their condition is stable now. However, the next 24 hours are crucial as there could be injuries in their lungs due to inhalation of smoke emanating from burnt chemicals. Chief engineer Shivakumar and operator Jyothi are under constant observation."

Meanwhile, BJP MLC N Ravi Kumar has sought a thorough investigation to know if files were destroyed in the fire.

Dengue: BBMP to step up index survey in city's vulnerable areas

MOHAMMED YACOOB
@Bengaluru

BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) health department is all set to step up its index survey in view of the surge in dengue cases in the city.

Officials of the department have started collecting information about dengue cases. They are also organising awareness programmes to prevent the spread of dengue in the city.

Dr Balasundar, chief health officer of BBMP, said the number of dengue cases in BBMP limits increased in July owing to rain and stagnation of water.

According to data, 2,246 cases have been reported since July. On June 18, John Jacob (75) died due to dengue shock syndrome and multi-organ failure at a private hospital on Sarjapur Road.

"Based on the directions of BBMP Health Commissioner Thrilok Chandra, a survey is on in vulnerable areas to identify dengue cases and get the patients tested and treated accordingly. This apart, ASHA workers and auxiliary nurse midwives are spreading awareness on the steps to be taken to prevent dengue," Dr Balasundar said.

He said people are being told to cover their water tanks, spray larvicides and take up fogging to prevent the spread of dengue. They are also being asked to wear proper clothes, use mosquito repellents, and clean flower pots and water tanks regularly, he added.

People with symptoms of fever, vomiting and body ache should consult doctors without any delay. If people test positive for dengue, they should follow the diet suggested by doctors.

East, South zones on high alert

In the East Zone, 443 cases of dengue were reported in July and 181 till August 9. Similarly in the South Zone, 348 cases were reported in July and 107 till August 9.

Based on the directions of BBMP Health Commissioner Thrilok Chandra, a survey is on. This apart, ASHA workers and auxiliary nurse midwives are spreading awareness on the steps to be taken to prevent dengue

—Dr Balasundar, chief health officer of BBMP

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Ph.D. Entrance Test	:	23.09.2023
Interview for the Candidates	:	07.10.2023
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KSRTC has planned to recruit 500 drivers immediately through a private agency. A top official from the bus corporation said all four bus corporations — KSRTC, KKRTC, NWKRTC, and BMTC) — put together have a shortage of over 15,000 staff, that include drivers

'Violence cases down, but white-collar crimes up'

FROM sending decoys to police stations to check how the staff respond to complaints from citizens to creating social media monitoring cells at the station level, **DG&IGP Alok Mohan** has taken several initiatives after he assumed charge as head of the state police force. In a dialogue with *The New Sunday Express*, he shares the steps taken by the police department to contain crime and make the department citizen-centric. Excerpts:

What are your priorities being the head of the police force?
Police stations are the main delivery point for the public. If police stations function in the best possible manner, definitely we can fulfil the expectations of the public. My emphasis is on police stations in terms of their efficiency. The public should be heard properly. I have directed all the SPs in districts and DCPs in commissionerates to visit at least one police station a day in their jurisdiction. They should talk to the public and also the staff at police stations as constabulary-ranked policemen should feel important. Officers have also been directed to send decoys to stations who are policemen in civil clothes. This is being done to see the efficiency of policemen. If there is no proper response from the policemen, action will be taken against them. The message is loud and clear and it has brought a sea change in the way the police stations function. Around 80 per cent of the cases are being attended to and in a few months, it will be 100 per cent.

There were some communal incidents in the country recently. With the Independence Day approaching, how prepared is the state police department?
Crime in society is like viruses and bacteria in a body. They are always there, but you have to ensure that your immune system is robust. Policing too is like that. We can't do away with elements that are interested in creating problems, but we can always keep our intelligence system strong. We ensure that nothing untoward happens, but sometimes there are incidents and we contain them.

It appears that the crime rate has increased of late. What are the types of crimes that are seeing an uptick?
Physical violence cases are reducing across India. The number of murders too has come down across the country as compared to the last decade. But, white-collar crimes like cyber crimes and economic offences are increasing. We've got CEN police stations to handle such cases.

CEN police stations are flooded with complaints related to cyber crimes.
As there is a rise in cyber crimes, all police stations have been directed to register complaints, though CEN police stations exist too. Every police station should be able to handle cyber crime cases. This will help citizens file complaints at nearest police stations saving them time.

The transfer list of inspectors was changed a number of times. What is the level of political interference in transfers and postings?
I don't think there is any political interference. No inspector with tainted records will get posted to good positions. It is the PEB that decides the postings.

The Whitefield CEN police were accused of demanding a bribe from an accused and were questioned by the Kerala police recently. What steps are being taken to reduce corruption in the force?
We have zero tolerance for corruption. We were also terribly shocked by the Kerala incident and the staff involved in the case were suspended. Now, we're trying to identify areas where corruption can flourish and set things right. We have done away with towing of vehicles and physical checking of vehicle documents. Staff have been told to use body-worn cameras. CCTVs have been installed at all police stations. Various technologies have been brought into the system which we're still increasing and updating to prevent corruption.

Several cases of road rage have been reported recently.
Society is changing. Families play a vital role in inculcating values. Police are a good deterrent, but we have a limited role to play. Road rage incidents are putting lives at risk. Police can always book a case. Our response is very immediate and positive. The constant battle between crime and police continues. We need more cooperation from the public to ensure the police keep an edge over the criminals.

Is the number of moral policing cases increasing in coastal Karnataka?
It is much less now. We have zero-tolerance towards all crimes and moral policing in particular. We will not allow such incidents and those who indulge in them will have to suffer the consequences. We are very clear on that.

What are the challenges with communal riots?
Police are the subset of society that operates by itself. The dynamics that lead to such incidents are beyond the police control, but we remain alert to prevent such incidents. Disturbance is the non-equilibrium state and society always comes to an equilibrium which is how it works. Society wouldn't have survived if disturbances were a norm.

Is social media becoming a problem for the police?
The problem starts when malicious, fake and manipulated information starts flowing. We are ensuring that we are capable of handling the menace. We have started state-level monitoring cells at state intelligence and CID headquarters. Every DCP and SP office has a social media monitoring cell. We have even created social media cells at every police station. This is called cyber patrol. If any posts have malicious or criminal intent, we will trace the person and book him. Everything is being watched and troublemakers must make a note of it. Taking social media monitoring to police stations in a structured manner is the first of its kind in the country.

What are the biggest challenges faced by the police department?
There are multiple fronts like maintaining law and order, prevention of crimes and keeping criminals under control. Crimes keep manifesting in different ways and we have to adapt to the changes by keeping ourselves updated.

There are allegations that police try to dissuade people from filing complaints by telling them about lengthy procedures and visits they have to make to courts. It is correct only in a few cases. As I mentioned, we are checking how the staff interact with the public and there was a positive response in 80 per cent of the cases. This is because even the staff know the cost of not registering a complaint is very high.

How's the response to the recently installed QR codes?
QR codes have been installed to collect feedback from the public. Every service has to be measured for its satisfaction, in the end, people should be satisfied. With this, we're building the public's trust. At any point we can come back and check on things they're not satisfied with. In addition, our officers are trying to know people's opinions whenever someone comes to the police station. This helps us too to check if we're working properly.

What about the perpetual traffic jams in Bengaluru?
We've over 5,000 traffic policemen in Bengaluru alone and it's one of the largest traffic organisations in the country. The government and the department are giving priority to traffic issues. We need to adopt different methods to constantly solve traffic problems. With technology, we've also made sure that there is police visibility, especially during peak hours. Roads are of limited width, but the city has unlimited vehicles so we're constantly putting in efforts to stabilise traffic. There are a few problems like bus stands at places where they shouldn't be and we're constantly trying to solve these issues. We're trying to bring in technology and it is helping in a big way with a recent example being the reduction in the number of deaths on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway.

What was the reason behind deaths on the highway?
Factors like a variety of vehicles moving together and commuters being careless by not wearing helmets or seatbelts often led to tragedies. Two-wheelers don't belong on the highway as even a minor accident may lead to death. We're taking measures to ensure that such accidents don't occur. We're using cautionary signage, education and information to make people aware of issues like speed limits. Within six months, things will be much better.

What happened to foot patrolling, which used to be the link between the police and residents?
It's still happening. We are doing both foot and mobile patrolling and we have strengthened the patrolling system. There are DCPs to monitor night patrolling. Police are not visible but they are protecting you.

Jail inmates continue to sneak contraband into the prison. Recently, five terror suspects were arrested and it was found they were radicalised inside the prison. Why is it difficult to control things in a prison?
We keep searching prisons and booking cases against inmates who are found to be indulging in illegal activities There are also instances of prison department staff being booked for supporting inmates in such acts. In general, things are always kept under control. However, once in a while we come across such cases, but we deal with those involved sternly.

What about staff crunch?
Everybody needs more people since work is more. But no organisation can reach a saturation point where there is enough staff. We always need more people. With the number of events and the coverage, we keep increasing our service area, making optimum utilisation of available resources.

What are the advances made at the forensic science laboratory (FSL)?
Scientific evidence plays a crucial role in getting an accused convicted. Even a strand of hair can turn out to be an important piece of evidence in a crime investigation. This is where forensic experts come into picture and our FSL is one of the best and most advanced in the country. We have procured the latest equipment and also have provided a vehicle, which is a moving FSL.

What are the steps taken for the well-being of police personnel?
Policing is tough and very demanding both mentally and physically. In the department, 90 per cent of the staff are from the rank of constables to sub-inspectors. We organise annual medical examinations for all staff and provide treatment if anyone has any condition. During weekly parades, in-charge officers talk to the staff and try to resolve their grievances. Weekly offs and leaves are ensured for the staff. Only if there are some law and order issues, there will be constraints on giving offs or leaves.

What's the status of the investigation in the Bitcoin case?
A Special Investigation Team is investigating it. Depending upon the evidence and proof found during the probe, action will be taken.

As a cop, do you like watching crime series on OTTs
I don't get much time to watch them. At times, we watch them too, but we know what exactly is going to happen. Most of them are dramatised versions of crimes. As far as the viewers are concerned, it depends on the thought process and people are wise enough to understand the consequences.

You are a writer too. Since you are on the hot seat, are you getting time to write?
After joining the service, I got my master's degree and I completed my PhD two years ago. I don't waste my time on other activities and I make time to write. I always feel you can express yourself better through writing and thoughts are important, and no harm in letting the world know what your thoughts are.

How has policing changed ever since you joined in 1987?
There has been a lot of change. Those days, there were hardly nine constables and head constables in each station, but today there are 40-45 staff in every station. Even inspectors used to go on motorcycles, but today they have four-wheelers. There is a lot of improvement in terms of technology and mobility. The nature of crimes has also changed. Bodily crimes have come down and economic offences have increased.

EXPRESS Dialogues

IT IS A POLITICAL REPLAY WITH ROLE REVERSAL

KARNATAKA politics is witnessing a replay of sorts. Dramatis personae are the same. The plot and the pitch are the same. But now, the roles are reversed. Contractors, their unpaid bills, allegations of commission, and more importantly, the questions over the quality of work are all elements of political events being unraveled within three months of Congress forming its government after winning a thumping majority in the May 10 polls. The Congress' "PayCM campaign" against BJP in the run-up to the polls saw a rerun in the form of a "PayCS" campaign against a minister in the Congress government.

The core issues that have hogged the centrestage of the political debate in the state over the last few days are; the delay in clearing the contractors' bills of around Rs 25,000 crore; the government's decision to constitute four SITs to review the quality of works carried out in Bengaluru during the four years of BJP rule; and the opposition BJP's demand for a Lokayukta probe against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, though he has rubbished the allegations.

Politically, the controversy has presented a potent weapon for the BJP to get back on its feet to take on the Congress, which has set itself a target of winning 20 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) are trying to set a narrative against the Siddaramaiah government, using corruption as a major issue and not letting Congress push guarantees as the only talking point in the state.

Simply put, paying Congress back in the same coin appears to be the BJP's strategy. Congress had effectively used the contractors' allegations of 40% commission against the then BJP government as a major poll issue. It had put BJP on the defensive, though contractors are yet to provide details to back their allegations.

The BJP's ability to sustain the campaign against the State Government depends on many factors, including a clear strategy and leadership at the state level, but for Congress, it could turn out to be a complicated issue, if it fails to handle it deftly in the initial stages. The Congress that won elections by making corruption one of the major issues cannot afford to let the debate hover around corruption in its administration even as it pursues alleged irregularities in the previous regime.

The delay in releasing the contractors' bills due to ongoing probes or shortage of funds, or any other reasons best known to those in power could further push the contractors to take on the government. Many of them are said to have taken loans to complete works and are in distress. They have knocked on the doors of the Raj Bhavan and sought help from the opposition parties to bring pressure on the government. The contractors have set August 31 as a deadline for the government to release the funds.

The opposition BJP is planning to meet the Governor on Monday with a demand for a probe against DK Shivakumar and Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy. The agriculture minister's issue is not linked to contractors. The Raj Bhavan had received a letter allegedly written by the agriculture department officials making corruption allegations against him. The government termed the letter fake and ordered a probe into it.

For now, contractors seem to be caught in the political crosshairs as the Congress government wants to investigate the works done by them during the BJP rule. But the alleged nexus between the contractors and politicians was the reason for the rot in the system and is a very sad commentary on the state of affairs.

While many British-era buildings are still standing strong, the quality of many roads and bridges constructed much later speak volumes about shortcomings in our system. It's high time we have a transparent and efficient system right from calling tenders to executing works so that contractors do not suffer due to delays in payments and people due to substandard works. If those in power claim that such a system is already in place, why are we not seeing any results?

EXPRESS READ

BJP to hold protest seeking reprobe into Sowjanya case

Mangaluru: BJP state president and Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel on Saturday said the party will submit a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking reinvestigation into the Sowjanya rape and murder case. Accompanied by BJP MLAs from Dakshina Kannada, Kateel said even if some powerful people are involved in the case, they will fight till the murderers are punished and the family members of the girl get justice. "SDM college student Sowjanya, a 17-year-old girl, was murdered in October in 2012. The state police, the CID and even the Central Bureau of Investigation have probed the case. Santhosh Rao, who was made an accused by the CBI, has been given a clean chit. Now the question that arises is who are the real perpetrators. Hence, we demand that the CM announce a reinvestigation into the case. To press for their demand, BJP workers, MLAs from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi will hold a massive protest on August 27 in front of the taluk office in Belthangady, he said. After the protest, Kateel said a delegation of party leaders will meet the CM and submit a memorandum. **ENS**

'Advocates Protection Act is Cong govt's 6th guarantee'

Mysuru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the Congress government's sixth guarantee scheme is the implementation of the Advocates Protection Act. After inaugurating the 10th Karnataka State-level Advocates' Conference, organised by the Karnataka State Bar Council and Mysore Bar Association, at Dasara Exhibition Grounds on Saturday, Siddaramaiah said the Congress government has introduced five guarantees and the Advocates Protection Act will the sixth that will be implemented. "I had spoken on introducing the act during the Belagavi session. I am committed to introducing the act. The previous government had prepared a draft of the act. Even though I wanted to pass the act in the first assembly session, due to various reasons, it was not possible. But the act will be passed in the coming session for sure. As advocates face lots of problems during their practice, there is a need for the act for their protection," he said. **ENS**

Probe on, why in hurry for bills, CM tells BBMP contractors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah said on Saturday that the government will clear the dues of BBMP contractors who have completed the works given to them as per guidelines. Those who have violated the guidelines will face the music.

He said those who are involved in '40 per cent commission' have no moral right to question the government.

"People of Karnataka have rejected the BJP for rampant corruption and the present government has ordered a probe to prove the allegations against the previous government. Why are the contractors in a hurry to get the bills cleared," he asked.

The government will not clear the dues till SIT submits its inquiry report, he added.

Clarifying that the government has not postponed the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, he said they are waiting for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the scheme will be launched by August-end.

He added that 1.05 crore women have enrolled for Gruha Lakshmi and officials have been told to continue with the registration. The Yuva Nidhi scheme for unemployed youth will be launched in December or later, he added.

Bommai: Probe just for extortion

Hubballi: Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai came down heavily on the Congress government for the delay in clearing bills of contractors. He alleged that a "commission" is being sought to clear the bills for works done during the previous BJP government.

Speaking to reporters at Shiggaon on Saturday, Bommai alleged that to extort the commission, contractors are being threatened with the probe into the quality of works. "It is learnt that the commission is being sought from contractors to clear bills that were settled during our tenure. For the sake of commission, the government has launched the investigation.," he said. **ENS**

DyCM: Why did not BJP clear pending bills?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The question of seeking commission by those in the Congress government does not arise as the process to clear the pending bills of contractors has not started. "How can we seek kickbacks? Why didn't the BJP clear the bills when it was in power? I will explain their style of functioning soon along with documents," he said.

Shivakumar said the BJP leaders are making false allegations against the government as they want to divert the attention of the people from the five guarantees being implemented in the state. As directed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the bills of contractors, who have completed the works awarded to them promptly, will be cleared after a thorough scrutiny. "Our intention is not to harass any contractor," he said.

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I, **N. Tulasi** would like to inform the general public that I have lost/misplaced page number 11 of the sale deed bearing No: YAN-1-01851-2005-06, in the Kammanahalli area of Bengaluru. If anyone finds it, kindly contact me at **9008944411 / 9900490222** within 15 days from the date of issue of this ad.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that my client **Mrs. BARKHA S.** D/o Sugan Chand Chouhan R/at No.21-Y6, 58th B Cross, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560010 intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from Mr. S.D. Gopalakrishna, Mrs. G. Suma, Mr. D. G. Nagaraja, Mr. S.D. Devanand, Mrs. S.D. Prema, Mr. D. D. Kiran, Ms. D.D. Suman, Ms. D.D. Poornima, Mr. Manjunath P. Golgeri, Kum. Rahithya (since minor represented his father and natural guardian Mr. Manjunath P. Golgeri) and Mr. K. Kumar. Any persons claiming an interest in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned at his office below mentioned address within 5 days from the date hereof, failing which the said sale will be completed, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. I : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing new Municipal No.6/2, new PID No.22-108-6/2 situated at **Ground Floor House**, on Eastern Portion of Municipal No.6, old Municipal No.161, PID No.22-108-6, Site No.161/Y, situated at 13th main, 3rd block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, now comes under BBMP ward No.107-Shivanagar, Bengaluru measuring East to West 28 feet and North to South 21.4 feet be it more or less 1/3rd undivided share i.e. 500 sq. ft out of 1500 sq. ft., and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Common Passage, staircase thereafter Property of S.P. Lakshmi, **North by:** 3 feet Passage thereafter Property of Tathachar, **South by:** Common Passage thereafter Property of Sarojamma

Item No. II : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Municipal No.6, new PID No.22-108-6 situated at **First Floor House**, on Eastern Portion of Municipal No.6, old Municipal No.161, PID No.22-108-6, Site No.161/Y, situated at 13th main, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, now comes under BBMP ward No.107-Shivanagar, Bengaluru measuring East to West 28 feet and North to South 21.4 feet be it more or less 1/3rd undivided share i.e. 500 sq. ft out of 1500 sq. ft., and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Common Passage, staircase thereafter Property of S.P. Lakshmi, **North by:** 3 feet Passage thereafter Property of Tathachar, **South by:** Common Passage thereafter Property of Sarojamma

Item No. III : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing new Municipal No.161/6/1, new PID No.22-108-6/1 on Western Portion of Municipal No.6, old Municipal No.161, PID No.22-108-6, Site No.161/Y, situated at 13th main, 3rd block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, now comes under BBMP ward No.107-Shivanagar, Bengaluru measuring East to West northern side 17 feet, Southern side 9.06 feet and North to South 30 feet along with 1/3rd undivided share i.e. 500 sq. ft out of 1500 sq. ft., together with building measuring 650 sq. ft. on the Schedule 'A' Property along with on the south side of this whole property there is an "L" shaped multiple passageway running East to West 39-0 feet, North-South 4-07 feet and running South to North between the two houses and on the north side of the said entire property there is also a passage measuring east-west 29-6 feet and north to south 3-0 feet and bounded on: **East by:** Common Passage, staircase thereafter Property of S.D. Goapalakrishna and others and S.D. Devanand and others, **West by:** Property of Subbarao, **North by:** Property of Thathachar, **South by:** Property of Sarojamma.

COMPOSITE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing new Municipal No.6/2, 6 and Municipal No.161/6/1, old No.161, Site No.161Y, new PID No. 22-108-6/2, PID No.22-108-6 and PID No.22-108-6/1, (item No.1, 2 and 3) situated at 13th main, 3rd block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, now comes under BBMP ward No.107-Shivanagar, Bengaluru measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 in all about 1500 sq. ft., together with building constructed thereon and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property of Subbarao, **North by:** Property of Thathachar, **South by:** Property of Sarojamma.

Rajesha K., Advocate
No.6, Gurukrupa Building, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. Mob No.9964225384

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDITIONAL FAMILY JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
M.C. No. 978/2023

BETWEEN: Mrs. Sunitha Nahar, Aged 52 years, D/o Mohanlal Golecha Residing at No.68, 15th Cross, 3rd main road, Vyalikaval (Near Stella Maris School) Bangalore - 560003 ... **PETITIONER**

AND Mr. Kalpesh Nahar, aged 53 years, S/o Chandmal Nahar Residing at No.228, Upper Palace Orchards, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore - 560080 ... **RESPONDENT**

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE

To, **Mr. Kalpesh Nahar,** aged 53 years, S/o Chandmal Nahar, Residing at No.228, Upper Palace Orchards, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore – 560080.

Whereas the Petitioner named above has instituted the above petition against you for dissolving the marriage solemnised on 12.05.1996 and registered on 08.01.1997, between yourself and the Petitioner.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person on the **25th day of September 2023 at 11 'o' clock** to answer the same, failing which the petition will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 3rd day of August.

By order of the Court (Sd/) Sheristadar Family Court, Bangalore.

MD&T Partners
Vyalikaval, Kodanddarampura, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru 560003.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE NO. M/SG.2023-24-366 DATED ON.10.08.2023 AND NO. M/SG.2023-24-367 DATED 11.08.2023

Sr.DSTE/I/MAS acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the work:

E-Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cash Value (₹)	Period of Completion
M/ SG.2023-24-366	Zonal Contract for the Signalling & Telecom Portion of work under ADSTE/ TBM jurisdiction of Chennai Division for the period of 2 years (2023-24 & 2024-25).	36.53 Lakhs	24 Months
M/ SG.2023-24-367	Signalling portion of work in connection with Elimination of existing Non-standard wooden layout Diamond crossing-D1 with 60 kg PSC layouts at Arakkonam yard in Chennai Division.	1.18 Cr.	12 Months

The complete details of the tender can be downloaded from the e-tender portal https://www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DSTE/II/MAS

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The J&K Bank Branch Infantry Road

F 6- F 7, Gem Plaza , Infantry Road, Bangalore-560 001
T +91 (0)80 25685444 E bnglor@jkbmail.com

J&K Bank Serving To Empower

Ref. No. JKB/BNG/ADV/NPA/23 Dated: 11.08.2023

Registered A.D.
M/S AMAZING JEWELS ...Borrower
Office address: No. 1/1, Peridot Plaza, Gajendra Nagar, Anepalya Main Road, Adugodi Post, Bangalore- 560030
Sole proprietor ...Borrower
Mrs. Kavalnaz W/O: Mir Hussain Ali Aijaz 10/3, Alfred Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025

Guarantor / Mortgagor
Mir Hussain Ali Aijaz 10/3, Alfred Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas **Mr. Tajammul Ahmad Qadri,** as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 08.06.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely (1) Mrs. Kavalnaz W/O: Mir Hussain Ali Aijaz 10/3, Alfred Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025 **(2) Mir Hussain Ali Aijaz** 10/3, Alfred Street Richmond Town, Bangalore-560025 Borrower/Mortgagor of **M/S AMAZING JEWELS** to repay an amount of **2,31,80,539.38 (Rupees Two Crore Thirty One Lakh eighty thousand Five hundred thirty nine and thirty eight paisa only)** being the balance outstanding as on 30.05.2022 in the accounts of the Borrowers, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 11th day of August of the year 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to **Rs. 2,31,95,852.38 (Rupees Two Crore Thirty One lakh Fifty Ninety Five thousand Eight hundred Fifty Two and thirty eight paisa only)** together with future interest thereon from **01.08.2023** and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Account Name	Security
M/s Amazing Jewels (ITEM NO .1)	Equitable mortgage of all that piece and property belonging to Mir Hussain Alicomprising commercial building known as "PERIDOT PLAZA" consisting of Ground , First and second floors constructed at property bearing New No 1/1 Muthanna Garden Neelasandra situated at Anepalya Main Road, Gajendra Nagar, Adugodi Post , ward No 70 Bangalore with super built up area of 4267.29 sft constructed at property bearing measuring East to West on the northern side 25ft ; on the southern side 45 ft ; North to South on the eastern side 86 ft ;on the western side 96 ft, thus totally measuring a sital area of 3185 sft.

Dated: 11.08.2023 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **The J&K Bank**

QuoteExpress **WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS** › GORDON B HINCKLEY

STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC SHANKARAPURAM (64063)
No. 13/1, 3rd Floor, Bull Temple Road, Opp.Sri.Ramakrishna Mutt, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004. Ph: 080 25943006/007.
Email Id: support.shankarpuram@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (Under Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Account No: HL-35418990551

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the **State Bank of India** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **30.05.2023** and same was published in two leading news papers "The New Indian Express and Samyuktha Karnataka" on 07.06.2023 and calling upon Borrower/s **1) Smt.Gunja Kumari** W/o Sri. Nilay Bharati, **2) Sri. Nilay Bharati** S/o. Sri. R. P. Singh, **Both are residing at:** Flat No. 1308, 13th Floor, Block B-1, "SNN Raj Serenity", Begur Koppa Road, Yelanahalli, Bangalore -560068 And **also at : i)** 14/21, D-4, "Chandravihar", 18th Cross, 24th Main, J.P Nagar 6th Phase, Image English School, Bangalore-560078. **ii) Sri. Nilay Bharati Break Bounce,** Manager (Retail Operation) No. 19, 1st Cross, Achaiah Chetty Arcade, 3rd Floor, Achaiah Chetty Layout, RMV Extension, Sadashivnagar, Bangalore-560080 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice **Rs. 37,25,101/-** (Rupees Thirty seven lakhs twenty five thousand one hundred and one only) as on 29.05.2023 + interest from 30.05.2023 + incidental charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s)/mortgager(s) having failed to repay the amount demanded as per Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/mortgager(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on **11.08.2023**

The borrower(s)/mortgager(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India** for an amount of **Rs. 37,35,157/-** (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Seven only) as on 07.08.2023 and interest from 08.08.2023 plus expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Schedule "A" Property : All that piece and parcel of the converted properties measuring 19 Guntas in Sy.No. 40/1, 4 Acre 19 Guntas in Sy.No. 40/2, 2 Acres, 25 Guntas in Sy.No. 40/3, 1 Acre, 19 Guntas in Sy.No. 40/4, 25 Guntas in Sy.No. 40/5, 1 Acre, 29 Guntas in Sy.No. 40/6 all situated at Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and converted property measuring 3 Acres 8 Guntas in Bengaluru South Taluk and converted property measuring 3 Acres 8 Guntas in Sy.No. 49/1, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, in all measuring 14 Acres, 24 Guntas converted vide Official Memorandum bearing :

No. ALN / (SB) / SR / 13 / 2010-11, dated 11.06.2010
No. ALN / (SB) / SR / 371 / 2002-03, dated 27.02.2003
No. ALN / (SB) / SR / 353 / 2003-04, dated 07.02.2004
No. ALN / (SB) / SR / 372 / 2002-03, dated 27.02.2003
No. ALN / (SB) / SR / 351 / 2003-04, dated 07.01.2004
No. ALN / (SB) / SR / 352 / 2003-04, dated 07.01.2004
No. ALN / (SB) / SR / 370 / 2002-03, dated 27.02.2003 and
No. ALN / (SB) / SR / 31 / 2009-10, dated 02.09.2009

all issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Bengaluru District, Bengaluru, bearing Municipal No. 21/40/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 49/1, now within the limits of Begur Division, BBMP and commonly bounded on : **East by :** Peripheral Road, **West by :** 61 Feet Wide Road, **North by :** Tank and Private Land, **South by :** Private Land.

Schedule "B" Property : (Property conveyed under this Deed) 301 Sq.Ft of undivided share of right, title and interest in the Schedule "A" property.

Schedule "C" Property : (Description of the Apartment conveyed under this Deed) All that piece and parcel of the **Apartment Bearing No.1308 with Two Bedrooms, measuring 905 Sq.Ft of super built up area and situated on Thirteenth Floor at Block-B1 of "SNN RAJ SERENITY, B-1 BLOCK"** constructed on Schedule "A" property, together with **One Covered Car Parking** slot at silt floor of the **Block-B1** bearing **Slot No. BCP-28** and the flat held in the name of **"Sri. Nilay Bharati and Smt. Gunja Kumari"** Details of the construction : Apartment No.1308 at B-1 Block, Super built up area : 905 Sq.Ft., Type of Floor : RCC, Flooring : Vitrified tile, Windows : UPVC Windows.

Sale Deed dated 05.02.2016 registered in Book No. 1 under Documents No. BMH-1-07418-2015-16 stored in C.D No. BMHD724 at SRO Bommanahalli (Jayanagara), Bengaluru.

Date : 11.08.2023
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer and Chief Manager
State Bank of India, RACPC Shankarapuram, Bangalore.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALAKKAD DIVISION
E- TENDER NOTICE NO. PGT/ OT/25/2023 DATED 10.08.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Southern Railway/Palakkad invite E-TENDERS for the following works.

Name of work: Request for proposal (RFP) for providing Project Supervision Services (PSS) for the works under Gati Sakthi work unit Palakkad for a period of one year.

Approximate Cash value in lakhs: ₹168.60/-

Bid Security Amount: ₹ 2,34,300/-

Tender closing date 15.00 hrs on: 25.08.2023

Completion Period in Months: Twelve

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.

2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.

3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR LOSS OF DOCUMENT

My Client **Mrs. P. PAVANAMMA**, W/o **PAVAN KUMAR. M**, Resident of No: 56, 4th Cross, Near Muneshwara Temple, Ullal Main Road, Bangalore-560056, has irretrievable **lost the original release Deed dated 18-08-2008**, Registered as Document No: **NGB-1-01741-2008-09 & absolute sale deed dated 10-02-2017**, Document No: **NGB-1-09470-2016-17,** registered at the office of the sub registrar Nagarabhavi. My Client has Lodged a Police Complaint for lost article on 11-08-2023 under acknowledgment issued by the Bangalore City Police, bearing SL No.682062, Lost Report No.0682062/2023

If any person/s found the said deeds please come forward with in a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and hand over the same to the under signed, will be suitably rewarded. If anyone has already carried out any transaction or any transaction is in the process of being carried out using the missing document, kindly inform the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within 07 days from this paper publication. Else there won't be any further claims from thereon.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No: 23**, Old No: 10, in portion Assessment No. 64, PID No. 64/23, New BBMP Katha Property No. 282/279/50/60 situated at Mallathahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, earlier within the limits of Rajarajeshwari Nagar Sabhe, now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Rajarajeshwarinagar Sub Zone Ward No. 129, Bangalore, measuring East to West: **30 Feet** and North to South **40 Feet**, totally **1200 Square Feet** and bounded on :

East by : Site No. 22
West by : Site No. 24
North by : Site No. 21
South by : Road

C. K. Anupama BAL., LLB,
Advocate & Notary
Public Govt. of India,
Mobile : 96320 74051, 94498 57470
Mail: advanupama1954@gmail.com
Office at : No. 15, 1st Floor, 12th Main Road, Opp to Post Office, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560010

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Contact Add: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai – 400013 **Contact No. (022) 61827414, (022) 61827375**
Branch Address: No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Bengaluru 560025. Mob: 9900880727

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

(As per Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated as below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules.

The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited**, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date of demand notice.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
TCHHL0808000100069748 & TCHIN0808000100070130	**Mr. Shivaram M R (Borrower) and Mrs. Jayalakshmi S M, Mrs. Lakshmi Devamma,** as (Co Borrower)	As on 06.05.2023 Rs.45,30,464/- (Rupes Forty Five Lakhs Thirty Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Four Only),	09th August, 2023

Schedule of the Property: All that the piece and parcel of the Residential Building Constructed in Site No.180 bearing Grama Panchayath Katha No.92/161/180 and E-Katha No.150300702200920146 (formed in Sy No.70/2 and 70/3) measuring East to West : 12.192 Mtrs and North to South : 9.144 Mtrs, Situated at Honnenahalli Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk Bangalore Rural District, and bounded follows:- East By : Road, West By : Site No.187, North By : Site No.181, South By : Site No.179.

Date: 09th August 2023 **For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited**
Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, intends to Purchase the schedule property described hereunder from:

1. Mrs. Renuka wife of Late Mr. Mahadevaiah, aged about 70 years, residing at: No. 84, Mahadeshwara Nilaya, S. Kariyappa Road, Ranganatha Extension, Behind Municipal High School, Kanakapura-562 117;

2. Mr. K. M. Satish son of Late Mr. Mahadevaiah, aged about 46 years, residing at: No. 84, Mahadeshwara Nilaya, S. Kariyappa Road, Ranganatha Extension, Behind Municipal High School, Kanakapura-562 117; and

3. Mr. K. M. Shashidhar son of Late Mr. Mahadevaiah, aged about 44 years, residing at: No. 84, Mahadeshwara Nilaya, S. Kariyappa Road, Ranganatha Extension, Behind Municipal High School, Kanakapura-562 117; jointly and severally.

Any person having any charge, lien, interest or title or claim or Agreement on the Schedule Property, should come forth with original of the documents in support of such claim and produce the same to the undersigned within **15 (Fifteen)** days from the date of publication of this notice. In the event no such legally tenable claim is received, my Client shall proceed with the Purchase of the Schedule Property as if no such claims exist or that they have been waived or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of industrial shed **No. B-4** measuring 251.23 sq. meters or 2,704 sq. ft. of super built up area situated in **KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Kanakapura,** standing on a plot of land measuring from north to south 21 meters or 68.8 feet and from east to west 26 meters or 85.3 feet in all measuring **546 sq. meters or 5,877 sq. ft.** bearing property / e-khata No. 152900200300221276 and bounded on the:

East by : W B M Road
West by : Shed No. C-14
North by : Shed No. B-5
South by : Shed No. B-3

Shamanth S. N., Advocate,
Shamanth & Associates
No. 402, 4th Floor, Suraj Ganga Arcade, No. 332/7, 14th Cross, 2nd Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 011
Bangalore Date: 12-08-2023

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALAKKAD DIVISION
E - TENDER NOTICE NO. PGT/OT/26/2023 DATED 11.08.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/ Southern Railway/Palakkad invite E-TENDERS for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Cash value (₹) in lakhs	Bid Security Amount (₹)
1.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-V"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/West/Podanur.	49.90	99,800/-
2.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-VI"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/East/Palakkad.	74.96	1,49,900/-
3.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-VII"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/West/Palakkad.	49.90	99,800/-
4.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "B-II"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Kollengode .	50.04	1,00,100/-
5.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "C-III"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Shoranur.	74.75	1,49,500/-
6.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "C-IV"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/West/Tirur.	49.56	99,100/-
7.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "C-V"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Angadipuram.	49.94	99,900/-
8.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "D-II"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/West/Calicut.	75.01	1,50,000/-
9.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "D-III"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Quilandy.	50.06	1,00,100/-
10.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "E-II"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Kannur.	49.98	1,00,000/-
11.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "F-I"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Kasaragod.	49.98	1,00,000/-
12.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "G-I"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Mangalore.	75.06	1,50,100/-
13.	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "H-I"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Payyanur.	49.96	99,900/-
14.	Palakkad Division- Provision of CAMTECH pit line and other yard arrangements in Palakkad town station. Track related works such as permanent way arrangement for pit line of 650 track metres, sick line (2 Nos of 100 track mtrs), provision for two stabling lines of 390 track mtrs each with connection to the main line, shunting neck of 580 track mtrs and linking of pit line sick line shunting neck to the main line and allied works.	399.07	3,49,500/-
15.	Proposed collection and training out of 50 mm machine crushed hard stone ballast at Madukkarai Depot.	323.80	3,11,900/-
16.	Resurfacing of platform of Mangalore (PF 1, PF 2/3 & Bay line) & Payyanur (PF 1 & PF 2/3) with vacuum dewatering concrete.	86.98	1,74,000/-

Tender closing date 15.00 hrs on: Sl. Nos. 1 to 13 & 15: 04.09.2023. **Sl. Nos. 14:** 20.09.2023. **Sl. Nos. 16:** 11.09.2023.

Completion Period in Months: Sl. Nos. 1 to 13: TWELVE. **Sl. Nos. 14:** Nine. **Sl. Nos. 15:** Eight. **Sl. Nos. 16:** Six.

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.

2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.

3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Website **"http://www.ireps.gov.in"**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients M/s. BODHI NIKETAN TRUST intends to purchase the schedule property from 1. Sri. R.MANJUNATHA , Aged about 58 years, S/o. Late Ramaiah. 2. Smt. NEELAMMA, Aged about 49 years, D/o. Late Krishnappa, Both are residing at K Narayanapura Village, Kothanur post, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk Bangalore- 5600771, 3. Sri. MUNEGOWDA, Aged about 46 years, S/o. Late B.P. Ramaiah, residing at Thanisandra Village, (Ashwathanagar) Shivaramakarantha Nagar Post, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore- 560077, Those who are having any title, right, claim or interest in the Schedule Property may contact me with their legitimate claim within 15 days from today, failing which my clients will purchase the Schedule Property, as the same is free from all claims /encumbrance and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

1. All that piece and parcel of the Western Half portion of undeveloped land bearing Sy.No.56/6, measuring 0-7 1/2 Guntas, Out of the total extent of 15 Guntas, Converted vide Conversion Certificate bearing No. BDS:ALN: SR (EAST)257/2002-03, dated: 20/02/2003, by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, District, Bangalore, Situated at K Narayanapura Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on ; East by : Eastern Half of land bearing Sy . No. 56/6, West by : Road and land bearing Sy.No.49, North by : land bearing Sy.No. 56/5, South by : land bearing Sy.No. 56/7.

2. All that piece and parcel of the Eastern portion of undeveloped land bearing Sy.No.56/6, measuring 0-7 1/2 Guntas, Out of the total extent of 15 Guntas, Converted vide Conversion Certificate bearing No. BDS:ALN: SR (EAST)257/2002-03, dated: 20/02/2003, by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, District, Bangalore, Situated at K Narayanapura Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on East by: land bearing Survey No. 56/10 & Sy.No.59/1 and Road, West by : Western half of land bearing Sy.No.56/6 & land bearing Sy.No.56/7, North by: Land bearing Sy.No.56/5, South by: Land bearing Sy.No.58 & portion of Sy.No. 56/7.

3. All the piece and parcel of the agriculture land in property bearing Sy. No.56/5, measuring 0-11 guntas, Converted vide Conversion Certificate bearing No. BDS:ALN: SR (EAST)257/2002-03, dated: 20/02/2003, by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, District, Bangalore, Situated at K. Narayanapura village, K.R.Pura Hobil, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on; East by : Survey No. 59/1, West by : Road and thereafter Survey No.49, North by : Survey No. 56/4, South by: Survey No. 56/6.

4. All the piece and parcel of the agriculture land in property bearing Sy. No.56/4, measuring 0-23 Guntas, Converted vide Conversion Certificate bearing No. BDS:ALN: SR (EAST)257/2002-03, dated: 20/02/2003, by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, District, Bangalore, Situated at K. Narayanapura village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, Bounded on; East by : Survey No. 59/1, West by: Road and thereafter Survey No. 49, North by: Road and thereafter Survey No. 56/3, South by: Survey No. 56/5.

K. Ajayakumar, Advocate,
AJAY & ASSOCIATES,
18, 1st floor, Thimmaiah Garden, Devegowda Road, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore- 560 032. Ph. (O) 080-49900563 and 8048506640, Mob.9880140512.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 10.08.2023	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	30258310000644	1) Mr. Melson P Sunny, 2) Mrs. Bileena Joy, 3) Mr. Joseph Anthony	19-12-2022	22-02-2023	Rs.4,21,473/- (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty One Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three Only)	28.08.2023 Time: 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.6,90,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	Rs.69,000/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Thousand Only)	13.09.2023 @ 02:00 PM	12.09.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: "Schedule Property" - Schedule-A: All that piece and parcel of property measuring about 11 acres and 18 Guntas bearing Sy.No.39/1, 39/2, 40/3, 42/1 situated at M. Medehalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore. **Bounded on the: East by:** Sy.No.43 Land, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South by:** Sy.No.41 Land. **Schedule-B:** The Undivided share in the schedule 'A' property which works out to 195 sq.feet. For 400 sq.feet of Built up area. **Schedule-C: Description of Residential Unit:** Residential Apartment bearing No.B-201, Khata No.535, Assesment No.T-8-B-201, Second Floor in Tower 8, in the Residential Apartment Complex known as "IANAADHAR SHUBHA" constructed on the schedule 'A, property, having a super built up area of 400 Sq.ft. with vitrified flooring and proportionate share in the Common areas, such as, passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and /or, room/s, water, drainage and/or electrical conduit/s and/or other area/s used in common with the purchaser/s of other Apartment/s and located at M. Medehalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore and is **Bounded on: East by:** Open Space, **West by:** A-202, **North by:** Corridor, **South by:** Tower No.7.									
2	30198644125043 & 30199660000812	1) M/s. Divya Traders, Represented by its Proprietor **Beeresh V M,** 2) Beeresh V M, 3) Mrs. Prema Yellappa	29-11-2022	03-08-2023	Rs.12,90,060/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Ninety Thousand Sixty Only)	28.08.2023 Time: 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.8,10,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Ten Thousand Only)	Rs.81,000/- (Rupees Eighty One Thousand Only)	13.09.2023 @ 02:00 PM	12.09.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.1, Katha No.128, Veerasandra Village, Nettegere Dhakle, Somanahalli Gramapanchayath, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Remaining Property No.1/A belongs to Smt. Savitha, **North by:** Passage and Property belong to Muniraju, **South by:** Property Belong to Muninarasappa. Measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet. Total measuring 1200 Sq.feet.									
3	32519440000203	1) Leelavathi Fashion Tailor, 2) Mrs. Leelavathi R S, 3) Harikesh R	25-11-2022	25-07-2023	Rs.6,27,108/- (Rupees Six Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eight Only)	28.08.2023 Time: 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.7,14,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Fourteen Thousand Only)	Rs.71,400/- (Rupees Seventy One Thousand Four Hundred Only)	13.09.2023 @ 02:00 PM	12.09.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property No.07, Khatha Serial No.15, Situated at Heggondanahalli Village, Sarjapur Hobli, Anrkal Taluk, Neriga Village Panchayath. **Bounded on: East by:** Venkatareddy property, **West by:** Thygaraj Property, **North by:** Muniyamma Property, **South by:** Road. Measuring East to West 16 Feet and North to South 35 Feet, Total Measuring 560 Square Feet.									
4	30198640001858	1) M/s. S I Marketing, Represented by its Proprietorship **Mr. Syed I Mahmood, 2) Mr. Syed I Mahmood** Proprietor **M/s. S I Marketing, 3) Mrs. Almas Praveen**	18-11-2021	19-07-2023	Rs.14,16,503/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Three Only)	28.08.2023 Time: 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.27,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Only)	Rs.2,70,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Thousand Only)	13.09.2023 @ 02:00 PM	12.09.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Corporation No.11/1, Situated in Muddamma Garden, 1st Main in Corporation Ward No.92, Bangalore (PID No.92-64-11/1), Bangalore Presently comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP, in total measuring East to West 45 ft and North to South 10ft and **Bounded on: East by:** Premises No.11, belonging to Syed Ashfaq Ahmed Faheem, **West by:** Conservancy Land, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private Property.									
5	45349660000133 & 45348640001561 & 45349660002139	1) M/s. Sai Surya Creation Represented by its Proprietor **Mr. Aswath,** 2) **Mr. Aswath** Proprietor of **M/s. Sai Surya Creation,** 3) **Mrs. Jayalakshmi**	20-03-2023	03-06-2023	Rs.52,91,506/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Ninety One Thousand Five Hundred Six Only)	28.08.2023 Time: 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.43,20,000/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs.4,32,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Only)	13.09.2023 @ 02:00 PM	12.09.2023, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.9, Khatha No.41/9/9, in Sy.No.½, Situated at Chunchaguppe Grama Panchayath, Sheshagiripura, Thavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and **Bounded on the: East by:** 30 Ft. Road, **West by:** Site No.18, **North by:** Site No.8, **South by:** 25 Ft. Road, Measuring East to West: 40 Ft. and North to South: 30 Ft. in total 1200 Sq.ft.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'**. The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Bhaskar Naidu Contact Number: 8142000809/ 8142000061. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / subbarao@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob No.9590858249) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob No.7400445147)** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 13.08.2023, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

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An infant was allegedly sold by his father, days after birth, and was rescued by Titlagarh police in Chhattisgarh on Friday from the residence of businessman, Amit Agrawal at Raigarh

BJP will fight next polls alone, form govt in Odisha, says Union minister

Congress describes recent visit of Shah to the state as 'thanksgiving' visit for BJD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bhubanewar

UNION Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav on Saturday asserted that the saffron party will fight the next elections alone in Odisha and form the government too.

Yadav was responding to questions posed by mediapersons if the BJP will forge an alliance with BJD for the next election.

Clearing the air on speculations over a possible BJD-BJP alliance which gained currency after the recent visit of Shah, who held a secret meeting with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in the state secretariat after jointly presiding over two official meetings, Yadav said, "We will fight election alone in Odisha and form the next government on our own."

As the two parties, who were partners till 2009 before BJD parted ways, are cosying up once again when general elections are eight months away, the curious development has left their party workers and political pundits baffled.

While the Congress described the recent visit of Shah to the state as a 'thanksgiving' visit for the BJD backing the NDA government on the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and opposing the non-confidence motion of I.N.D.I.A constituents, the state BJP leaders are still figuring out the purpose of his visit and his showering praises lavishly on the chief minister.

Though Shah clarified that there was no secret understanding with the regional party as it was made out by some opposition political parties including BJD, many leaders of the state BJP are still not convinced.

Earlier, state BJP president Manmohan Samal had said that his party will fight alone in all the 147 Assembly seats and 21 Lok Sabha seats and form the next government in the state.

LEOPARD ATTACK

6-yr-old girl mauled to death in Tirumala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tirumala

IN a tragic incident, a six-year-old girl, identified as Sushmita alias Lakshita, was killed by a leopard near Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at the Alipiri-Tirumala footpath. The body of the girl, who went missing on Friday night, was found in the early hours of Saturday.

Lakshita, along with her parents -- Dinesh Kumar and Sasikala -- from Nellore district, left for Tirumala on foot for darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

In the wake of the incident, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthnams (TTD) beefed up security along with Forest and Police departments at all the vulnerable points along the footpath route. It is now contemplating the closure of both footpaths to Tirumala from Alipiri and Srinivasa Mangapuram at 2pm and 3pm respectively. An ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh was announced to the victim's family. Rs 5 lakh will be paid by TTD, while the remaining Rs 5 lakh will be paid by the forest department.

A month ago, a five-year-old boy was also attacked by a leopard at the Tirumala temple. He luckily escaped and sustained a head injury. Since January this year, Saturday's incident was the third. Recently, a sloth bear was also found to be crossing the footpath.

Seshachalam forest, of which Tirumala hills is a part, has wide range of wild life and the number of leopards have increased. Around 44 leopards are suspected to be moving around the vicinity of Tirumala -Tirupati ghat section and Alipiri and Srinivasa Mangapuram footpath.

ISRO conducts successful parachute tests for Gaganyaan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Gaganyaan Mission ticks off another box as Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted a series of drogue parachute deployment tests which will help the astronauts land safely from space.

The tests were conducted during 8 to 10 August by the ISRO team at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh.

These tests play a crucial role in the Ganganyaan Mission which will take three crew members into a 400 km orbit for a 3-day mission and bringing them back to Earth by landing in the Indian sea waters early next year. These parachutes play a pivotal role in stabilizing the crew module and reducing its velocity to a safe level during re-entry.

Drogue parachutes are packed within pyro-based devices known as mortars which are ingeniously designed to eject the parachutes into the air upon command. "These conical ribbon-type parachutes ensure a smooth and controlled descent," said ISRO.

The team tried three different variations to rigorously evaluate the performance of the parachutes. ISRO in a statement said, "The first test simulated the maximum reefed load, marking a groundbreaking introduction of reefing in a mortar-deployed parachute within India. The second test emulated the maximum disreefed load."

The third test showcased the deployment of the drogue parachute under conditions mirroring the maximum angle of attack experienced by the Crew Module during its mission said the space agency.

Cow vigilante arrested, booked under Goonda Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THIRTY-year-old Puneeth Kerehalli, head of Rashtra Rakshana Pade, who is reportedly involved in vigilantism and extortion, has been arrested and booked under the Goonda Act. The CCB sleuths arrested him on Friday under the stringent act in which it will be extremely difficult to obtain bail.

It may be recalled that Kerehalli and his four associates were arrested in Rajasthan for their alleged role in the death of a driver of a cattle transporting vehicle at Sathanur in Ramanagara district.

Kerehalli was reportedly involved in criminal activities for the last 10 years. The CCB sleuths arrested Kerehalli after the city's top cop declared the accused as a rowdy following recommendation by CCB sleuths. In June this year, the city police had sought his response as to why a rowdy sheet should not be opened against him.

Kerehalli has been booked under the Karnataka Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug Offenders, Gamblers, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video or Audio Pirates Act of 1985 (Goonda Act).

He was arrested in April this year for his role in the death of 35-year-old Idris Pasha in Sathanur. Pasha was the driver of a cattle transporting vehicle. Kerehalli was later granted bail after Pasha's postmortem report suggested that the death was due to heart attack.

ROW-OOM...

The 69th Nehru Trophy Boat Race being held at Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha on Saturday | TP SOORAJ

CRIME PATROL

Labourer injured during fight, dies

BENGALURU: A daily wage labourer, who was found lying unconscious with head injuries on the roadside in Halasuru on Friday morning, died at Nimhans on Saturday morning. The Halasuru police shifted the victim, Kiran, to the Bowring Hospital, and had registered an attempt-to-murder case. Later, the victim was shifted to Nimhans where he succumbed. "The attempt-to-murder case has been converted to a murder case. The victim had sustained injuries on the back of his head. It is not clear if the victim hurt his head after falling during a fight. The victim was working as a bar bender," said an officer. It is said Kiran had a fight with four men at a bar on Old Airport Road on Thursday night. He then left the bar, but the men followed him and attacked him.

Boiler bursts at Nammoora Thindi hotel

BENGALURU: Three workers of Nammoora Thindi hotel in Nagarbhavi have sustained minor burns after a steam boiler inside the hotel exploded on Saturday morning. The injured are Aishwarya (19), Ravi Kumar (20) and Karthik (18). All of them were shifted to a nearby hospital. The police suspect that the boiler exploded when the workers were filling it with water to prepare idli. Luckily, the customers present at the hotel were not hurt in the explosion. The Jnanabharthi police have registered a case.

St John's celebrates diamond jubilee

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

ST John's Medical College on Saturday inaugurated a new Oncology centre that will offer advanced services in cancer care. A nuclear medicine and positron emission tomography (PET) scan facility was also opened to the public at a standardised cost. The integrated laboratory services will use different technological applications to research and investigate fields such as mycology, hemato-oncology and histopathology.

The institution also completed 60 years of service in the healthcare department. Transport and Muzari Minister Ramalinga Reddy and Energy Minister K J George commended St John's for their unbiased service to the poor and appreciated the various initiatives for the economically backward. "St John's is an institution providing international standard healthcare and we have never heard of any discrimination. In fact, nobody's influence works here for seats in the college, only merit does," said George, speaking at the diamond jubilee event in the city.

Man kills woman, keeps body in drum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 27-year-old security guard from Odisha has been arrested in connection with the mysterious death of a 21-year-old woman in Mahadevapura. The accused has been identified as **Krishna Chandra Sethi**, who worked at a tech park in CV Raman Nagar.

The victim, Mahanandi, was staying with her sister at Lakshmi Sagar Layout in Maheshwarinagar of Mahadevapura. The sisters are from Kalaburagi. The victim had gone missing on Thursday night and her sister had filed a complaint with the jurisdictional police.

The wife of the accused, the victim and her sister were working at a nearby petrol bunk. When Sethi's wife had gone for work on Thursday, he called Mahanandi inside his house and attempted to rape her. When she started screaming for help, he strangulated her with the sacred thread she wore round her neck. He then kept the body in a drum inside his house and disposed of it outside the victim's residence in the wee hours of Friday.

"A police team, along with the Scene Of Crime Officers (SOCO), found the footprint of the victim outside the house of the accused. Moreover, a girl told the police that she saw the victim going inside the house of the accused. We also observed that the accused had not stepped out of the house despite so much happening outside. We then picked him up for questioning and he confessed to killing Mahanandi," said an officer. The Mahadevapura police have registered a case.

AFTER TOMATOES, WILL ONION PRICES, IF UNCHECKED, BRING TEARS?

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

ONION prices that were around Rs 25 per kg in retail shops last week have touched Rs 35-40, depending on the quality, while top-end supermarkets are quoting Rs 45 per kg. The prices threaten to zoom further if supplies do not keep pace. Shops and supermarkets across Bengaluru confirmed that the prices have gone up by about Rs 12-15 per kg over the last one week.

The Union government, realising the danger of high onion prices ahead of polls in five states, has moved in to control the prices. Recently, a series of meetings was held with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and National Cooperative Consumer Federation where it was decided to use a massive 3 lakh metric tonnes of buffer stock stored across states and markets to keep the prices cool.

Karnataka Agriculture Minister Chaluvarayaswamy told TNIE, "We will look into the issue and take corrective action."

APMC yard merchant Ravishankar B, who is also the secretary of the Onion Merchants Association of Bengaluru, said, "Stocks from Chitradurga, Davangere and other places in Karnataka are not available as monsoon is playing truant. Onion supplies from these areas could get delayed causing the prices to shoot up sharply. If the government releases buffer stocks into the market, it will ensure speculators don't drive up prices by speculative hoarding."

Another APMC yard merchant N Shah said, "If this trend continues, onion prices could go further north."

Farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekar said, "In about 4,000 hectares in Karnataka, there is expected to be deficient crop and in around 16,000 hectares, there is a delay in harvesting by about 6-8 weeks because of delayed monsoon showers. Nashik in Maharashtra too has faced a deficient crop output leading to this problem."

TN still waiting for SOP on child marriage prohibition

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@Chennai

MORE than one and a half years after a committee was formed to create a standard operating procedure (SOP) to prevent child marriages in the state, the SOP is yet to be released. The committee was formed as Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Child Marriage Rules lacks clarity on the roles of various stakeholders involved in prevention of child marriages in the state.

According to sources, a committee headed by the social welfare director with child rights activists and social welfare officers as members was formed in December 2021. The committee was supposed to frame the SOP within March 2022.

"The government had decided to bring out an SOP as rules were not clear on the roles of district social welfare officer, district child protection office and police among others," said a member of the committee.

He added that police often refuse to file first information reports in child marriage cases citing lack of evidence as an excuse. "While more than 3,000 child marriages happen every year in the state, FIRs are not filed in most cases. This creates problems in getting injunction against a stopped child marriage or nullify a child marriage that has happened," he added.

The SOP initially submitted had detailed steps on procedures to be followed when a child marriage is stopped and when the marriage has happened. However, the social welfare department wanted some changes and asked the committee to rework it after sitting on it for a while. A meeting on the matter is yet to be scheduled after the social welfare director took charge, sources said.

EXPRESS READ

Tamil Nadu minister admitted in B'luru hospital

BENGALURU:Tamil Nadu Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, who is about 46 years old, arrived at Narayana Hrudayalaya in Bengaluru on Saturday after he complained of chest pain and was advised to have an angiogram. The Narayana Hrudayalaya team told TNIE, "Mahesh Poyyamozhi has arrived at the hospital today. He has been offered consultation and diagnostics at the VIP area. He plans to undergo coronary angiogram."

ED files chargesheet against Senthil Balaji

CHENNAI: Enforcement Directorate on Saturday filed a charge sheet against minister V Senthil Balaji as part of the ongoing money laundering investigation against him. Principal sessions court judge S Alli ordered judicial custody of Balaji till August 25. Custody was granted following an order of the SC which had also ruled in favour of the powers of the agency to take an accused for custodial interrogation while disapproving of the contention of the minister's side.

Sudha Murty part of 19-member NCERT panel for textbook revision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

SEVERAL experts and stalwarts in their field such as Sudha Murty, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation, music maestro Shankar Mahadevan, economists Bibek Debroy, Sanjeev Sanyal, and 16 others will be a part of a committee formed by the NCERT to revise textbooks for Class 3 to 12, according to the new curriculum that will follow the rules of National Education Policy (NEP).

This announcement comes after several allegations were made by the opposition on the BJP-led central government in May for whitewashing the learning material with vengeance. Several topics were removed without adequate justification which led to a huge controversy and uproar.

According to officials, the committee will work to align the curriculum with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) which was developed by the K Kasturirangan-led committee as a part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The selected NSTC members will aim to revise and develop the school syllabus for Classes 3 to 12 and also revise the existing textbooks of Classes 1 to 2 to ensure a smooth transition from Class 2 to Class 3, according to a notification issued by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The 19 member panel committee called as the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC) will be chaired by Mahesh Chandra Pant, the chancellor of the National Institute of Education and Planning in Administration (NIEPA), and co-chaired by Professor Manjul Bhargava from Princeton University.

FROM MUSIC MAESTRO TO ECONOMIST...

Sudha Murty, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation

Shankar Mahadevan, music maestro

Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council- PM

Sanjeev Sanyal- Member of EAC

Dr Shekhar Mandey- Ex-DG of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

Chamu Krishna Shastri, Chairperson of the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti and founding member of the (RSS)

Professor Sujatha Ramadorai - University of British Columbia,Canada

U Vimal Kumar, Director of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy

Professor Michael Danino, visiting professor at IIT Gandhinagar

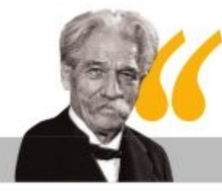
Surina Ranjan IAS- Rretired from the Haryana cadre and former DG, HIPA

Dr MD Srinivas, Chairman, Centre for Policy Studies,

Gajanan Londhe, Head of Programme Office, NSTC,

Rabin Chhetri, Director, SCERT

NCERT Professors - Pratyusha Kumar Mandal, Dinesh Kumar, Kirti Kapoor and Professor Ranjana Arora



"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing" — Albert Schweitzer

NO TRUST VOTE: OPPOSITION IN BLUNDER LAND

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

THE essence of strategy, management guru Michael Porter said, is choosing what not to do.

A few years back, a successful entrepreneur, in an informal conversation, advanced the Indian logic on the strategic call to not do something. It resonated with the wily P V Narasimha Rao's quip that "not taking a decision was also a decision"! The crux of the insight the tycoon got from his father is that his opponent will always suspect your intelligence, acuity and competence. His father cautioned the blunder would be to trip on temptation, do or say something and prove the suspicions right.

This week, India's opposition parties grouped as the INDIA alliance did just that as they chose to process the vote of no confidence against the Modi Sarkar. The exercise amplified caricature painted by the ruling regime and illuminated the worst fears of the followers of the alliance and its voters. Typically Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned it into the launch of the Modi 2024 campaign. Julius Caesar famously said, 'Veni, Vidi Vici – I came, I saw, I conquered'. The opposition, wallowing in blunder land, issued the clarion call and capitulated to be conquered'!

The coalition has for months raged about the deleterious dilution of democratic institutions, the neglect of crippling inflation and the rising threat of polarisation. Yet, the prosecution of the charges during the trust vote debate was an astonishing display of poor strategy, absence of political acumen, lack of preparedness and ignorance of basic tactics in processing what legal slang defines as 'oppo'.

The INDIA coalition claims that the 'no confidence motion' forced the prime minister to come to Parliament and speak. In the same breath, it charges that the PM spoke on Manipur for just two minutes and that the three vital questions were yet unanswered. No matter how potent a strategy appears, what matters is the outcome. Napoleon once told his troops that when the enemy is erring, it is best not to intervene. The question that begs asking is if the cause of the opposition would have been served better by the strategy of "not doing". As the old adage has it failing to prepare is effectively preparing to fail. How good was the preparation of the opposition parties? In the 2018 no trust vote, Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened his salvo by thanking the opposition for the opportunity. He quoted lines from a poem by Bhubaneshwar Prasad Dikshit to highlight the poor preparation. In 2023, he thanked God and the opposition, cited another poet to highlight the fractious coalition and invited them to try again in 2028. He used the occasion to target the Congress and send a message across India's political geography – the BJP needs to once again win against Congress in nearly 180 face-off seats.

The opposition's attack was sans focus and quality. The selection of MPs left the better speakers out. Rahul Gandhi, rebranded post the Bharat Jodo Yatra and freshly reinstated as MP, was presented with the occasion to don the role of the voice of dissent – to articulate the rationale for the no-confidence motion. He chose instead to ramble, even if passionately, and indulge in extreme rhetoric laced with mixed metaphors from mythology. The phrase "expunged" appears over 20 times in the Lok Sabha record of his speech.

The performance of other opposition parties was scattered in focus and splattered with sloganeering. The INDIA coalition claims that the exercise was not about winning the vote but winning the war of perception. Did it? The governments led by BJP have many claims to success but also questions to answer – this includes the assaults on women, the othering of communities, the persistence of vacant posts across governments, the state of urbanisation, the historic high of 5.02 crore pending cases in courts and more. You would expect a coalition of 18-plus parties which decided to move the no-confidence motion would act in concert to present a cogent and coherent view. That was scarcely the case.

The war on perception in the internet age demands innovative articulation. The BJP under Modi deploys modern templates in crafting the narrative, whereas the opposition is stuck with idioms of the past. Did they need to field 27 speakers? Was there any attempt to allocate/demarcate geographies and domains to specialists? The parties could have crowdsourced issues – even presented experiences and questions from constituents as challenges to the ruling front's narrative.

At the birth of the INDIA coalition, this column had observed that the opposition senses the disquiet on disharmony and distress at the bottom of the pyramid but struggles to weave a narrative. Frequently rhetoric conflates the aspiring nation and the political state, causing frustration and anger among those in the middle ground. There is a need to make a distinction between the nation – the cultural, economic and geopolitical context – and the grievances about the regime.

Success demands the opposition articulate what it stands for, not just what it is against, not merely criticise but prove how it can do better. India's political landscape is riveted by ennui, Latin for weariness and dissatisfaction. Emil Cioran, the Romanian philosopher, in A Short History of Decay, says, "Ennui is the echo in us of time tearing itself apart, the revelation of void." India needs competitive ideas; politics cannot be merely an argument industry.

THE SMRITI-RAHUL WAR OF PARADOXES

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

OPPOSITES attract. Compatibles detract. The successive spats between Union Minister for Women and Child Welfare Smriti Irani and Congress's Prime Minister-in-waiting Rahul Gandhi just registered an escalation in political warfare, with a verbal artillery charge by the feisty former actress in Parliament last week. After Rahul lambasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on Manipur during the no confidence motion, Irani's puissant counter response was for the headlines. Rahul had castigated Modi, alleging, "You have murdered the voice of India, which means you have murdered Bharat Mata in Manipur... My mother is sitting here. The other mother, Bharat Mata, you killed in Manipur." The Speaker even had to expunge part of his speech, provoking a freshly vitaminized Congress to ask whether 'Bharat Mata' is an anti-national phrase. The flying kiss Rahul blew in the House later enraged Smriti even more: this Western gesture, now popularised by Bollywood, wasn't lost on the BJP's nationalist narrativists. Never before has any MP behaved like a pantomimist in the Lok Sabha. Within 24 hours, Google had almost a million searches about the Smriti-Rahul fracas. Rahul owes his infamy to his pedigree and new fame to the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Smriti, an actor who faced the humiliation any unconnected budding artist has to endure in showbiz, attained political superstardom thanks to her ability to perform as an administrator and fight her adversities like a tigress unchained.

It was no coincidence that Smriti was deputed to speak on behalf of the government. She is a habitual Rahul basher and nemesis of the Gandhi dynasty. She spent much time denouncing the Gandhi Parivar and their increasing irrelevance during her combative speech. She told Rahul: "You are not India because India is not corrupt. India believes in merit, not in dynasty, and today of all days, people like you need to remember what was told to the British - Quit India. Corruption Quit India, Dynasty Quit India. Merit now finds a place in India..." And she went on to add: "I object to something. The one who was given a chance to speak before me displayed indecency before leaving. It is only a misogynistic man who can give a flying kiss to a Parliament which seats female members of Parliament. Such undignified conduct was never before seen in the Parliament of the country..." According to published reports, without naming any person, she took the entire Gandhi clan to task by saying, "It shows the khandaan he comes from and what his family and party feel about women."

FILE PHOTO

Interestingly Rahul has rarely personalised their antagonism or passed an adverse comment against Smriti. According to Rahulites, he doesn't wish to create a He vs She trope since the Congress's journeyman is also its Prime Ministerial candidate. However, many middle level Congress leaders have been using highly hateful language against her. But the BJP has wisely chosen Smriti. She is perhaps the best person for the job. Besides being a woman, she is a better communicator than Rahul, is multi lingual, and an equally well known face in India.

Ironically, both oppugnant orators joined politics at the same time in 2003; Smriti a year earlier. Rahul contested his first Lok Sabha election a year later from Amethi in 2004 and won hands down, pun intended. Irani also contested her first election in 2004—against Kapil Sibal from Chandni Chowk, Delhi and lost. She used to be a wildly popular TV actor, hailed for her role in 'Saas bhi Kabhi Bahu thi' in which she played the stellar lead as a sorrowful 'Bharatiya nari' for eight years. Rahul was college trotting from St Stephens College to Harvard while Smriti moved up the political ladder, holding various local and national level posts in the BJP. Rahul first became Congress General Secretary and afterwards party president for a short period. Sometime in between, he was labelled with the derisive cognomen 'Pappu', which generated its plethora of memes. He was also the first Gandhi to resign as Congress chief and also to decline calls to return repeatedly. During the past few years, he has undergone an image makeover by projecting hirsute maturity and controlled tenor in conversations: his well-choreographed Bharat Jodo Yatra was a steroid shot serviced by his strategy spinmeisters. But he owes his new political gains more to the BJP's ridiculously rampant obsession with him. It seems to be the mandate of every district level party worker to Union minister to savage Rahul personally. The BJP's mission of Congress-mukt Bharat looks impossible in the near future; the party now feels that Rahul and Sonia can, after all, hold the party together. If the ruling party can get Rahul on the defensive, they hope his newfound stature may ultimately collapse.

Evidently, the BJP's target is to pulverise Rahul's electoral winnnability. They have no one better than Smriti to accomplish the task. She pulled a miracle in Amethi by trouncing him by over 50,000 votes. She was chosen to contain Rahul and convert him into a liability for the Congress. Soon after the Amethi result was declared Irani thundered, "Kaun kehta hai aasmaan me surakh nahin ho sakta? (who says one can't achieve the impossible?)." In truth, the Congress was expecting Rahul to lose in Amethi, so he stood from a second seat in Wayanad, Kerala, which he won. Smriti would have defeated him in 2014 itself but for the last minute transfer of Samajwadi Party votes to him. Mulayam Singh Yadav told me in an interview that he received a call for support from 10 Janpath, which he couldn't refuse. A night before the polling, all SP workers in Amethi were told to mobilise voters for Rahul: he won by just a lakh of votes. Smriti has been an MP since 2011, first in the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat for two terms and subsequently in the Lok Sabha. No other member of the BJP has spoken as contemptuously against Rahul as she. Now that Rahul is back in the reckoning, the Congress is preparing to oust Smriti from Amethi by fielding their dynastic mascot again. Rahul can comfortably get re-elected from any borrowed seat like Wayanad or any safe seat from Tamil Nadu. But he remains a half-leader without a full pull factor unless he recaptures his lost family fiefdom. At 51, age is on his side. He has pan India visibility which no other BJP leader other than Modi has. But he is also the BJP's best bet to keep the hope of Congress-mukt Bharat alive if Smriti repeats her act in Amethi. Politically Rahul and Smriti aren't made for each other. As the war of paradoxes escalates in hyperbole between the two gladiators, history is scripting the present for the future.

ROCKY AUR RANI: NEW WINE IN AN OLD BOTTLE

OPINION

NAMRATA JOSHI
Consulting Editor
namroo@gmail.com

THERE'S a moment in Karan Johar's latest blockbuster Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, which marks a tectonic shift in mainstream Hindi cinema's perception and representation of gender dynamics. The macho, flamboyant and boorish hero Rocky Randhawa (Ranveer Singh) dances with a delectable combination of elegance and energy along with his future father-in-law, Kathak dancer Chandon Chatterjee (Tota Roy Chowdhury), to 'Dola re dola' from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas.

On the face of it, the song-n-dance set piece might seem like a homage to Bhansali. It also appears to tick all the boxes of expectations from Johar's quintessential grandiose brand of cinema: spectacularly dressed men and women, a splashy Durga Puja pandal for the backdrop with psychedelic shades of red accompanying the high-powered choreography.

But there's more here than mere kitsch and bling. The cocky manly men of Hindi cinema have rarely rendered dainty and delicate steps of classical dance forms on screen in this liberating manner. It might not have been openly stated but quietly underlined as too womanly an act, thereby perceived to turn them into "less of men". This a reflection of our society itself that, like Tijori, the father of Rocky, often pejoratively refers to professional male dancers as "nachaniya". An issue that playwright Mahesh Dattani also touched upon in his dance Like a Man. As a character in the play states: "A woman in a man's world is considered progressive, but a man in a woman's world is considered pathetic".

The South, perhaps with its respect for and patronage of classical music and dance, has not been so circumscribed. Kamal Haasan played a Kuchipudi dancer in K Viswanath's Telugu film Saagar Sangamam (1983), and Mohanlal embraced Kathakali in Shaji N. Karun's film Vanaprastham (1999).

'Dola re dola' has been a song of sisterhood and female solidarity, a celebration of a shared love for a man and the sheer abandonment and freedom offered by dance. With a few fluid moves, the male rendition of it breaks the rigid walls of gender identity and role-playing and no one better to have embraced his feminine energy than an insouciant Ranveer Singh, who has anyhow been challenging perceptions and prejudices with his outrageous sense of style and the way he chooses to dress. The message at the end is simple: "Talent has no gender".

What's more, this song-n-dance number is not an instance in isolation. Several such elements make RRKPK much more than the glitz, glitter, and all things jazzy it is packaged in. They offer a welcome break from the hyper-masculine narratives that have dominated our cinemas of late, giving us a woman's man for the hero for a change. Most so, they collectively cock a snook at orthodoxy, refreshing in the overbearingly conservative, reactionary age. At times a bit too on the nose but largely with good humour, playfulness, joy, sentiments and intellect intact.

Something few would have expected of Karan Johar. In the popular imagination, he has been the purveyor of impossible fantasies and an upholder of the status quo. Now we are attaching shocking adjectives like "topical", "political", "woke", and "subversion" with him.

> This a reflection of our society itself that, like Tijori, the father of Rocky, often pejoratively refers to professional male dancers as "nachaniya"

Be it Alia Bhatt's Rani Chatterjee being a combative, questioning journalist who is fast disappearing from the media landscape or Jaya Bachchan as the crotchety Randhawa matriarch channelling a version of herself seen in the interactions with the paparazzi in those Instagram reels, the meta moments go beyond the references to films and tug of nostalgia for old Hindi film songs, to amusing nudge and wink at the actual.

The film takes the mickey out of countless things around us—from Shashi Tharoor's vocabulary to Emraan Hashmi's kisses, from Kolkata Knight Riders' 'Korbo lorbo jeetbo' to Mamatadi's 'Khela hobe'. There's talk of "objectification" and of "consent", "fat shaming", "cancel culture", and "misogyny". I remember that the editors had fun playing with smart headlines for one of my earliest pieces on Johar's films: "Kitsch kitsch hota hai", "Kitsch and kin". RRKPK would easily deserve a "Kitsch 2.0".

Yes, there are still the stereotypes of the boisterous Punjabis and pretentious Bengalis. However, there is still that trademark chiffon-clad heroine in the snows of Kashmir, with the hero sporting designer pullovers in song sequences that are filmed like escapist apparitions. The window dressing is the same, but there's a change of heart. The director, who turned Kadwa Chauth into a pan-India festival, now has a dialogue where the boy's family humbly requests the girl's parents to accept their son as damaad (son-in-law). Beti bahu talk be damned. The extravagance of the White House of Randhawas and the ethnic haveli of Chatterjees is home to not-so-lovely realities of their own. Johar's body of work may have largely been all about "loving the family", but here there is an open admission of dysfunctionality even in the most progressive bastions.

Yes, all still ends well with some wholesome hope and healing, but only after some power structures have collapsed and relationships have been renegotiated. They talk about old wine in a new bottle. With RRKPK it's more like Johar has served a new wine in an old bottle.

QUOTE CORNER

We think there could be another force, something that we are not aware of now. It is something different, which we call the 'fifth force'....something we don't know about yet, but it should be important, because it says something new about the Universe

Prof Graziano Venanzoni, Particle Physicist, University of Liverpool, UK

The objective of introducing sports quota is not to accommodate academic merit, but promotion of sports in the institution. The imposition of the minimum 75% eligibility condition, therefore, does not subserve the object of introducing the sports quota, but is, rather destructive of it

Justices S Ravindra Bhat, Aravind Kumar, Supreme Court of India

Of course (will see Jailer)... I love Rajni sir....Maassss!! He had come on Jawan set and blessed us too

Shah Rukh Khan, Actor

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Stray cattle

Apropos the edit "Cattle-rearing in cities must be regulated" (Aug 12). It makes a sensible suggestion for "licensing of cattle and providing grazing land". Normal reaction of policy makers is to ban cattle-rearing. Your paper has recognised the "economy" part of this, helping many households to sustain families and rightly compared it to street-vending.

Hemanth Bhide, Mangalore

Cattle menace

The incident in Chennai in which a stray cow gored a nine-year-old girl, inflicting serious injuries, is shocking. Stray cows and buffaloes are a common sight in roads in cities and towns, causing traffic jams and scaring road users and pedestrians. Such cattle should be confiscated and owners heavily fined.

S V Venkatakrishnan, Bengaluru

Legislation overhaul

In the context of latest complete overhaul of criminal laws, since the name of the country, India, is anglicised, the word be replaced by 'Bharatheeya' and 'Bharat'. It is noticeable that the old name of Ceylon was changed to 'Sri Lanka' and Burma to Myanmar. Such moves inspire or boost patriotic feelings of citizens.

Jaya Shree Thampi, Thiruvananthapuram

Hindi names

Apropos of " Stalin says Hindi names for laws BJP's attempt to supplant our identity". It is undeniable that the Centre has been bending over backwards to introduce Hindi language in those states which are against such overt or covert methods to impose Hindi. Now giving Hindi names alone to new legislation and amendments show the penchant of the Centre to forcibly implement their agenda. This looks like testing the waters or the pulse of the opponents of compulsory Hindi imposition.

R Sridharan, Chennai

Judges' transfer

The recommendation of the transfer of 23 HC judges by the SC collegium sends a shocking message as it includes Justice M Prachchhak who refused to stay the conviction of Rahul Gandhi and another who recused from that case. It is desirable if it is made as part of a general policy to have one third judges from out of State. However, a transfer made without consent of the judge will appear to affect the independence of judiciary.

Sundaram Govind, Aluva

Influencer disclaimers

The aftermath of GOI's decision to make it mandatory for celebrities and influencers to provide clear disclaimers and be bound by it is that ASCI's strict norms and hefty fines for misleading advertisements and boasting about brands make celebrities and influencers responsible and accountable. They need to do due diligence before they endorse products or else, they will be held liable for any misleading endorsements.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

Hate speech

Apropos SC moots panel to check hate speech (August 12). Setting up of state-wise panels alone will give no respite from hate speeches. What is required is that such panels should be given functional freedom and independence to act decisively and impartially. Otherwise, they are bound to become mere scarecrows.

C G Kuriakose, Chengamanadan

Ajit's idea

Apropos "Maha unease: Shinde, Ajit agree to disagree on guardian ministers" (Aug 12). Ever since Ajit Pawar walked into the Maharashtra government along with his supporters it was obvious that his political ambition is that he would not be satisfied with remaining deputy chief minister. In that light the latest controversy in regard to appointment of guardian ministers is only an excuse that must give Chief Minister Eknath Shinde an inkling of the shape of things to come and he has to move adroitly to save his position.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

M.K.Stalin @mkstalin
The prevalence of caste and ethnic consciousness among school and college students is not conducive to the welfare of the future of Tamil Nadu.

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Income Tax payers fell by 60% in FY23 from FY20. Unless people's purchasing power rises, turn around is possible. Modi is focused only on profit for cronies.

Raghav Chadha @raghav_chadha
On this Youth Day, my heart brims with hope and determination, despite recent challenges. It's an honor to represent our nation's youth.

At G20 meet, Modi says no compromise on corruption

India harnessing tech potential, e-governance to check graft, says PM

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday emphasised India's unwavering commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against corruption. Speaking at the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial meeting held in Kolkata, he underscored the nation's resolve to combat corruption and eradicate its detrimental impact on society, particularly on the impoverished and marginalized segments.

The Prime Minister's assertion coincided with his widely recognized slogan, "Corruption Quit India," which he consistently emphasises during his interactions across the country. He emphasised that the government's duty is to enhance the utilisation of resources and improve the quality of life for its citizens while combatting the adverse effects of corruption on resource allocation, market integrity, and service delivery.

Modi highlighted that India is harnessing the potential of technology and e-governance to create a transparent and accountable framework to counter corruption. Efforts are being made to address gaps and prevent leakages in welfare schemes and government projects. These initiatives have led to direct benefit transfers exceeding 360 billion dollars, benefiting millions of people and resulting in savings of over 33 billion dollars.

Detailing the government's actions against corruption, the Prime Minister mentioned the effectiveness of the government e-marketplace (Gem portal) in bringing transparency to government procurement processes. He also spoke about the aggressive pursuit of economic offenders under the Economic Offenders Act 2018, leading to the recovery of assets worth more than 1.8 billion dollars.

Additionally, he highlighted the attachment of assets worth over 12 billion dollars since 2014 by law enforcement agencies under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Modi proposed that G20 countries could lead by example by using non-conviction-based confiscations to expedite the recovery of foreign assets, thereby strengthening the global fight against corruption.

Conveying a strong message about collective action, the Prime Minister emphasized that the collaborative efforts of G20 nations could substantially bolster the fight against corruption. He stressed the importance of enhanced international cooperation and the implementation of robust measures to address the root causes of corruption.

Adhir slams govt, may challenge LS suspension in SC

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

TWO days after his suspension from the Lok Sabha for "repeated misconduct", pending an investigation by the Privileges Committee, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Saturday said that he will examine the option of approaching the Supreme Court on the issue.

I said PM Modi speaks on everything but on the Manipur issue, he is sitting 'Nirav' which means silent. My intention was not to insult the PM."

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress MP

Lashing out at the BJP government, the Congress MP said he had been "hanged without trial." The government was trying to throttle the voice of the opposition by suspending its members, said Chowdhury while addressing a press conference in the capital. "I can approach Supreme Court as well, if needed," he added.

"I cannot contradict the direction of the Chair. But if this situation could be resolved by the court, I may also try this," he said, adding that the government had thrown all the parliamentary traditions to the wind using its brute majority to pass various laws without letting the opposition discuss them.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved a resolution for Chowdhury's suspension from the House, saying he disrespected the sanctity of the House by interupting PM Modi during his speech. The resolution was passed by a voice vote.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the suspension was deliberate as now Chowdhury will not be able to participate in Public Accounts Committee meetings on CAG reports. Referring to his remarks comparing PM Modi to fugitive Nirav Modi, Chowdhury said that he had no intention to tarnish anyone in Parliament.

RAMESHBABU PRAGGNANANDHAA

BE LIKE PRAGG, NEW CHESS CATCHPHRASE

GOMESH S @Chennai

SOURAV ROY

THE sacred ash on his forehead is enough to identify Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in the mix. Yet it's not the only mark that separates him from the rest. A quintessential lad from Chennai has other qualities that set him apart. He hides his boyishness with an uncanny board intelligence and finds ways to punch above his weights with envious regularity.

On Saturday morning, 'be like Pragg' seems to be the word going around in the world of chess. It's not because Praggnanandhaa's coach RB Ramesh has been saying it during a camp at Magnus Carlsen's chess club, Offerspill, in Sweden, but because even one world's finest Carlsen agrees with 'be like Pragg'.

The chess prodigy, who became the second youngest Grand Master in the world, has quite an impressive CV already. Just this year, he had beaten Ding Liren, the then world No 2 in the Classical format at the world's top rated classical tournament in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands. He has beaten Carlsen in a collection of online matches during the pandemic. On Friday, he added another feather to the cap, knocking out World No 2 Hikaru Nakamura at the FIDE World Cup. Carlsen, who was in the middle of his game against Germany's Vincent Keymer, stood up in the middle of the contest to go and congratulate Pragg. After beating Keymer, Carlsen threw some light on the conversation. "My chess club Offerspill, they have a camp right now for young talented players where Ramesh, Pragg's coach, is the main coach. One of my friends who attended it told me that Ramesh was always telling them 'be like Pragg, be like Pragg'. So I told Pragg that we all want to be like him today," the Norwegian told FIDE Chess. For any mortal, a compliment from the genius of chess would have turned into that cherished WOW moment. But not for this young champion. The Indian was his humble self while sharing his feelings. "It was just about congratulations in general. I didn't expect it too because he was sitting in the game and he was playing a game and suddenly he stood up and came to me so yeah that was a good moment to remember," he told FIDE Chess.

In a nutshell, this is Praggnanandhaa as a person on and off the chequered board. Chess players are considered cerebral and muted in their celebrations. The 18-year-old is no different. While acknowledging his happiness on achievements, the Chennai lad had always maintained some kind of semblance and often said it in a matter-of-fact manner. Sometimes even to the bewilderment of the listeners. He never shies away from accepting his mistakes. This was evident during the Chess Olympiad in 2022 during India's contest against Switzerland when despite not playing well the team won 4-0. His words though sombre capture his psyche "capitalise on your good days while learning to win ugly on bad days."

There is a bit of Chennai in Praggnanandhaa too. The city boasts of a rich history for chess and here, kids often take to chess at a very young age. Praggnanandhaa too went through the rituals. His coach Ramesh throws light on the sporting culture that has paved the way for him and the other teen prodigies. "In India, we don't frown upon hard work. It's considered a virtue, unlike in the West. When we work hard in one aspect of our life, in the West there is a tendency to say 'you are missing out, you are not having a complete childhood'. Here, we fortunately appreciate it. Many children take it up seriously at a very young age when they have fewer distractions (social media and video games). So, they are more hopeful and energetic. It's the best age to learn. Anyone who starts young and works hard, they have a better chance," he had told this daily.

NEWSMAKER

All through his teen years, the 18-year-old has shuffled studies and chess. He went to school only between January and March. There had been times when he had been up until the twilight hours, thinking about the match he had played, before waking up at 7 AM to go to school for an exam and do it all over again. It is his attitude of taking every challenge on the stride as it comes that has brought him this far.

As his coach Ramesh said, the win against Nakamura should only give the smart youngster, who currently has a live ELO rating of 2645, a morale boost. However, bigger challenges lie ahead and it is yet to be seen how far he goes in the ongoing FIDE Chess World Cup. What can be said for sure, is that at 18, he has already become the sporting icon that the parents in his city would tell their kids when they introduce chess to them and say 'be like Pragg'.

Railways planning 5 new lines along Nepal, Bangladesh borders

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Railways is working in a mission mode on five mega rail projects of international importance. The projects will make rail services accessible in the areas adjacent borders along Nepal and Bangladesh and also in areas that fall under Bangladesh and Nepal.

According to a written reply given by railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in the Rajya Sabha, five new rail line projects with bordering countries of a total 125 km length are being implemented. He said that the projects would be completed and commissioned at a cost of ₹ 2,722 crore.

"Out of a total 125 km of new rail line projects , 60 km of rail route length has already been commissioned till March, 2023 at an expenditure of ₹1,729 crore," the minister said.

The new rail line projects along the international borders are – Balurghat-Hill new line, Jogbani-Bratnagar(Nepal), Agartala-Akhaura (Bangladesh), Mahisasan(India-Zero point,Bangladesh) and the Jaynagar-Bijalpura, including extension from Bijapura-Bardibas(Nepal).

According the railway minister, the Agartala -Akhaura (Bangladesh) broad gauge is a project of national importance and the construction of Indian portion is taken up by RCON and funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. The construction of Bangladesh portion is being taken up by Bangladesh Railways and funded by Ministry of External Affairs.

MAJOR LINES IN THE WORKS

1. Balurghat-Hill
2. Jogbani-Bratnagar (Nepal)
3. Agartala- Akhaura (Bangladesh) .
4. Mahisasan (India-Zero point (Bangladesh)
5. Jaynagar-Bijalpura, including extension from Bijapura-Bardibas (Nepal).

"The link shall provide additional connectivity between India and Bangladesh and encourage trade between two nations," the minister said.

Sharing details, the minister also said that alignment for Indian side of the project runs from Agartala railway, station to Nischintpur yard.

"The length of Indian side is 5.46 rkm and length in Bangladesh side (International border to Gangasagar) is 6.78 kms", the minister said. The anticipated cost of the project (Indian side) is ₹ 865 crore. An expenditure on the project (Indian side) up to July 2023 is ₹781.71 crore.

"The work on Nischintpur yard is complete and ancillory constructions of viaduct in balance portion are in progress,"the minister informed.

Ineligible bidders selected for Bharatmala project, says CAG

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

FLAGSHIP ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Bharatmala Pariyojana aims at development of 74,942 km

Total length of 34,800 km was approved under Phase I of Bharatmala) for at an Investment outlay of ₹5,35,000cr

FLAGS FUND DIVERSION

CAG flags excess price adjustments to the tune of ₹99.16 cr due to wrong Computation adjustment formula in case of EPC and HAM projects

Tune of ₹3,598.5 cr from escrow accounts by concessionaires Poor monitoring of escrow accounts by NHAI resulted in diversion of funds to the

THE Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has found fault with implementation of Phase I of the Centre's flagship Bharatmala Pariyojana, the highways development programme, while reviewing several projects awarded under the scheme. In its latest report, the CAG has observed that ineligible bidders were selected and bids were awarded on the basis of faulty detailed project reports (DPRs) or without DPRs in violation of prescribed processes of the tendering.

It further pointed out that DPRs prepared by consultants were not appraised with due diligence by the competent authority before approval of projects. It has recommended that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) consider establishing a DPR Cell in the implementing agencies to create institutionalized in-house expertise for reviewing the project reports and road designs.

In October 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Bharatmala Pariyojana for the development of 74,942 km of national highways. The primary focus of the programme was on optimising efficiency of the movement of freight and people across the country.

Total length of 34,800 km including the Residual National Highways Development Program (NHDP) length of 10,000 km, was approved under Phase I of Bharatmala Pariyojana (BPP-I), for development up to September 2022, at an investment outlay of ₹ 5,35,000 crore.

The CAG report tabled in Parliament last week also found that fund management, planning and monitoring of the projects were not up to the mark. "Due to wrong computation of price-adjustment formula in case of EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model) projects, contractors/concessionaires were paid excess price adjustments to the tune of ₹ 99.16 crore.

MoRTH should review the interpretation of the price adjustment formula in HAM projects so as to avoid undue benefit to the concessionaire. Poor monitoring of escrow accounts by NHAI resulted in diversion of funds to the tune of ₹ 3,598.52 crore from escrow accounts by concessionaires," the report of the federal assessor reads.

HAM is a combination of two models –EPC and BOT–Annuity (Build, Operate, Transfer) model. Under the EPC model, private entities build roads and have no role in its ownership, toll collection or maintenance.

SC asks courts to expedite digitisation, installation of CCTVs to curb violence

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

APPALLED by three major gun violence incidents in courts in the NCT, the Supreme Court directed expediting the installation of CCTV cameras and digitisation of courts to avoid untoward incidents.

Remarking that preserving court's sanctity while ensuring safety and security of stakeholders is "non-negotiable" in judicial process, bench of Justice SR Bhat and Dipankar Datta emphasized the need to implement and strictly enforce security protocols to prevent such incidents from occurring in the first place.

Observing that mere installation of CCTVs "may not be enough", the court also directed HCs to not only prepare but also timely implement a "security plan", to be formulated in consultation with Principal Secretaries, Home Departments of each State Government and the Director Generals of Police of the States/Union Territories or the Commissioners of Police.

"The schematics of CCTV camera installation will have to be laid down on a district level where the respective State Governments should provide the requisite funds for the execution of such a plan in a timely manner," the court directed.

Flagging lack of facilities regarding live streaming of court proceedings and recording trials, the court directed HCs to look into the issues urgently.

"Initiatives like Audiovisual (AV) technology/Videoconferencing (VC) facility for recording of evidence and testimonies in trial, live-streaming of court proceedings at all levels, establishing e-SEWA Kendras, particularly in remote areas may also be considered accordingly," the court said.

The bench also directed HCs to submit monthly reports to CJs regarding implementation of measures and called for reports on security measures and digitisation by October 10, 2023. Posting the matter for further consideration on October 12, 2023 the bench entrusted chief justices of HCs to take a call on delegating the responsibility.

'Most nurses trained in 5 southern states'

KAVITA BIJELI DUTTA @ New Delhi

K'taka 2nd south state

Karnataka has the second-highest number of nursing colleges in the country, and among the southern states of India. As many as 668 nursing institutes are functioning here. It is followed by Tamil Nadu (345), Andhra Pradesh (278), Kerala (268), and Telangana (157), according to data shared in the parliament.

NEARLY half of India's nurses are trained in five southern states; Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, according to government data.

After the south, over 17 per cent of nursing colleges are in the western states of Maharashtra, which has the highest number of nursing colleges in the country at 713; followed by Rajasthan (270) and Gujarat (220).

Of the 5,203 nursing colleges in India, 715 are government-run. Out of these, 40 per cent are in the southern states. Currently, India has 35.14 lakh registered nursing personnel, amounting to 2.06 nurses per 1,000 people, much below the World Health Organization (WHO) standards prescribing three nurses per 1,000.

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Officials said in these few years, both Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, are setting up nursing colleges. While Madhya Pradesh has 431 nursing colleges, UP, India's most populous state, has 365 nursing colleges. Officials added that more are coming up in the next two years in these 2 states.

The northeast and union territories like Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir have very few nursing institutes and colleges. An official said that the main reason behind the skewed regional imbalance is due to various geographical and socio-economic factors. "These factors influence the availability and accessibility of nursing education in different regions of the country," the official added.

ZORAWAR

Ukraine war delays India's tank project

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE continuing war between Russia and Ukraine is delaying India's ambitious project to manufacture Zorawar light tanks, as the war, now in its 19th month, has choked the supply chain for defence components.

Sources said the delay is due to the inability of a few foreign countries to supply critical components needed to manufacture the tanks. The push to make Zorawar tanks comes amid a continuing threat along the northern border with China.

Light tanks are needed to address sector-specific operational requirements, sources said. The indigenous Zorawar tanks will be designed to operate from a high-altitude area, marginal lands and island territories.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Beneficiaries of various Central government schemes from Uttarakhand will be among the 1,700 people invited from across the country as special guests to the Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort on August 15

01 HELD FOR DRUG SMUGGLING IN J&K'S SAMBA DISTRICT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	26	Mumbai	31	27
Bhopal	29	23	Panaji	30	26
Jaipur	32	25	Patna	34	27
Amritsar	36	27	Lucknow	35	27
Chennai	35	28	Port Blair	32	27
Kolkata	31	26	Imphal	28	22
Srinagar	32	17	Chandigarh	34	27

■ Pamphlet politics shows factionalism in saffron citadel of Gujarat ■ In election-bound Rajasthan, rift within Congress intensifies

BJP set for rejig in Gujarat after exits and intrigues

Surat Crime Branch has questioned a senior cooperative leader and former chairman of a dairy for distribution of leaflets and pen drives targeting state party chief CR Paatil

Sources

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

IS the BJP set for an organisational overhaul in Gujarat? Speculation is rife that it may go for it, particularly after key state leaders have repeatedly called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party chief JP Nadda.

While one-on-one meetings have generally been a quiet affair, they became a matter of discussion in state BJP circles after some leaders started posting news of these visits on social media. Among those who have met the two top leaders are former chief minister Vijay Rupani and Assembly Speaker Shanker Chaudhary. Thereafter, murmurs of organisational changes have begun.

The BJP national leadership is known to be unhappy with the rising incidents of mudslinging within the party. Matters came to a head when leaflets appeared discrediting state BJP chief CR Patil. It also came to be known that leaflets along with pen drives carrying details had been posted to some of the state and national leaders. Informal checks revealed it to be an insider job leading to one of the BJP MLAs filing a police complaint. Three people have already been arrested and many party leaders at the village and taluk levels have been suspended.

There has been turmoil in the ranks for some time now. Four months ago, Bhargava Bhatt, central zone general secretary, put in his papers. Then followed the resignation of Pradeepsinh Vaghela as the party general secretary last week. Besides, BJP leaders in Surat and Vadodara were suspended for spreading defamatory pamphlets about their own leaders.

In the BJP, four general secretaries are recruited from each of the state's four zones, with one of them from RSS. These five general secretaries are considered crucial after the Gujarat BJP chief. But two of the four have resigned.

Insiders say probe into the malicious leaflets is on. "Surat Crime Branch has questioned a senior cooperative leader and former chairman of a dairy in last two days," they said. The crime branch has arrested three BJP office-bearers so far. Earlier on July 24, BJP corporator of the civic council in Vadodara was held for reportedly mailing an anonymous letter, accusing the city mayor of corruption.

Senior BJP leaders have refused to comment on these developments.

Rift in the ranks

There has been turmoil in the ranks for some time now. Four months ago, Bhargava Bhatt, central zone general secretary, put in his papers. The resignation of Pradeepsinh Vaghela as the party general secretary last week followed.

Gehlot hits out at senior party leaders at key meet

The stance on the caste-based census is not mine alone; it is the party's national standpoint. If you feel strongly about it, go to Delhi and address Rahul Gandhi directly

Ashok Gehlot to Raghu Sharma

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

WITH elections barely four months away, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is becoming increasingly assertive and has started lashing out at his own party leaders. During a party meeting attended by senior party leader and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal and senior party observer for Rajasthan Madhusudan Mistry, Gehlot took a tough stand against certain senior leaders.

One such sharp rebuke occurred during a recent meeting of the Political Affairs Committee of the Congress in Rajasthan. He chastised minister Pratap Singh Khachariawas, former minister Raghu Sharma, AICC member Raghuveer Meena, and Rajya Sabha MP Neeraj Dangi.

Sources reveal that during the meeting, food and civil supplies minister Khachariawas advocated for an assertive strategy in the assembly polls. Gehlot said sharply, "I am well aware of your assertiveness, which often veers off-topic when you speak. It is Venugopal ji who tolerates your approach. If the decision were mine, I would not hesitate to take action." Political analysts say CM's anger stems from unwarranted statements made by Khachariawas about Jaipur Heritage Mayor Munesh Gurjar's case.

Similarly, Gehlot became upset when Raghu Sharma voiced concerns about potential electoral losses due to the caste-based census. "The stance on the caste-based census is not mine alone; it is the party's national standpoint. If you feel strongly about it, go to Delhi and address Rahul Gandhi directly. The creation of Kekri district should have uplifted your spirits, yet your discontent persists," the CM retorted

Raghuveer Meena had raised objections to the CM's announcement of OBC reservations during a visit to the religious site of Mangarh Dham. "Do you consider yourself more knowledgeable than me? Your words lack forethought," Gehlot rebuked Meena.

Rajya Sabha MP Neeraj Dangi was not exempt either. "Despite three consecutive losses in assembly elections, the high command still sent you to the Rajya Sabha. It is time to secure at least one victory and contribute to the party's success. Work hard to garner support across the state," he was told.

Cause and effect

Some speculate that formation of a committee from Delhi has been irking CM Ashok Gehlot. Others say the Congress high command aims to involve Sachin Pilot in the Rajasthan poll campaign, a move Gehlot is reportedly unprepared for.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
suryawanshi.sudhir@gmail.com

Chavan may be next Maha Cong prez face

Rumours are doing the rounds that Congress high command is scouting for a new party president face in Maharashtra. In a bid to balance power, a Maratha face is likely to be promoted. The incumbent state president Nana Patole and the newly appointed leader of opposition in the state assembly, MLA Vijay Wadettiwar, both hail from the Vidarbha region and are prominent OBC faces. Former CM Ashok Chavan, who recently gave a power point presentation to the central leadership on how Congress is positioned for the Lok Sabha and assembly elections as well as corrective measures, have reportedly impressed Rahul Gandhi. He could be projected as the front runner if a change takes place.

NCP factions look to welcome Nawab Malik

The Supreme Court has granted bail to NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik in a money laundering case, on medical grounds. Both the NCP factions have welcomed the court's decision and said they eagerly await Malik to join them. Malik's daughter is reportedly with the Ajit Pawar faction, but he is likely to keep away from both the factions. He might focus on the treatment of his kidney and other ailments. Malik, who was a strong face and well-articulated spokesperson for the NCP, has cordial relationship with both the Pawars.

State leaders hijacking credit, cries BJP MLA

Anger against top leadership of the Maharashtra BJP must be surfacing. Former BJP MLA from Pune, Medha Kulkarni, took to social media recently, ruing that loyal BJP workers who joined the ranks by embracing the party ideology in true spirit are being sidelined. She said the credit of her work was hijacked by BJP minister Chandrakant Patil, who did not name her in the posters printed during the recent flyover inauguration in Pune. Earlier, Kulkarni, who was the sitting MLA from Kothrud assembly constituency, was sidelined to pave the way for Patil in 2019.

Jadavpur univ: Former student admits to ragging

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

A FORMER student of Jadavpur University, Sourabh Chowdhury, was arrested in connection with the mysterious death of first-year student, Swapnodeep Kundu.

Sourabh's interrogation on Saturday pointed towards ragging, which might have led to Swapnodeep's death. He had cleared his master's in mathematics in 2022, but has been living in the hostel where Swapnodeep was reportedly ragged and murdered.

Preliminary investigation revealed that first-year students underwent a "self introduction" session, which was demanded by senior students. Swapnodeep too faced it.

Sourabh was produced in a court and remanded to police custody till August 22. Police booked the accused under murder charges as the family of the deceased complained of foul play behind the death.

Swapnodeep, a resident of Bagula in Nadia, who took admission at the university on August 3, was found lying naked on the ground in front of the building that houses his hostel room on the second floor. He was rushed to a private hospital in an unconscious condition, but succumbed to his injuries soon after.

SHAH IN KUTCH

Home Minister Amit Shah at the IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid) plant in Kandla of Gujarat's Kutch district on Saturday | PTI

Pawar meets Ajit in bid to bring NCP factions together

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE political dynamics in Maharashtra are rapidly evolving, and two distinct incidents within a few 100 kilometres have shed light on the unfolding events. On Saturday, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, accompanied by his senior leaders, met Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in Pune to discuss the merger of both the NCP factions.

Meanwhile, the absence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde during the inauguration of the Chandani Chowk interchange flyover, as well as the Khed and Manchar bypass in Pune on the same day, has ignited speculations about a potential leadership shift in the state.

Reportedly, during the meeting with his nephew, NCP chief Sharad Pawar communicated to Ajit Pawar that his faction would not merge with the ruling NCP. However, he did not object if other leaders aligned with his nephew.

Sources indicate that Ajit Pawar has come to realise, through discussions with senior BJP leadership, the crucial role of Sharad Pawar's support in his quest to secure the position of Maharashtra Chief Minister. This realisation stems from the challenges he might face in achieving favorable outcomes in the upcoming Lok Sabha and state assembly elections without Sharad Pawar's backing.

Consequently, Ajit Pawar is earnestly pursuing this position, even as the BJP extends offers, such as appointing two cabinet ministers from the NCP and the position of Chief Minister. This offer comes with the condition that Senior Pawar either retires or directly collaborates with the BJP. Sharad Pawar has stipulated that Ajit Pawar must first secure his elevation as Chief Minister before considering alignment with the BJP.

Cow smuggler ring busted in Nuh, 1 arrested

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

HARYANA Police busted the operations of a cow smuggling gang on Saturday in an encounter on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, near Mahu village in Nuh. The smugglers were transporting 21 cows from Ferozepur Jhirka in Nuh of Haryana to Bharatpur in Rajasthan. One person has been arrested.

Nuh has experienced communal turmoil in the last fortnight, and this operation comes at a sensitive time.

Sources said the encounter occurred near Mahu village in Ferozepur Jhirka of the Nuh district. Following information received on Friday night, the Nuh police intercepted a truck. The smugglers fired upon the police team, supported by a few men in accompanying cars. The police retaliated, resulting in an injury to one of the accused, Taufiq, who sustained a knee injury and was subsequently rushed to Mandikhera Hospital.

The gang was found to be associated with the Utawar area. The police swiftly registered a case. The police are currently conducting raids to apprehend the remaining culprits.

Nuh's Superintendent of Police, Narendra Bijrania, commented, "We have effectively dismantled a significant cattle smuggling syndicate, resulting in one of the culprits being injured during the crossfire."

"Those who strive to protect the welfare of cows are unjustly labelled as criminals, while these actual criminals appear to operate with impunity," said a right wing spokesperson.

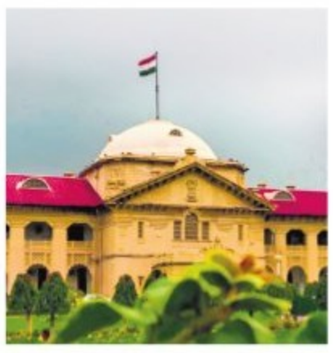
'Women misusing POCSO, SC/ST Act to grab money', says Allahabad HC

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE Allahabad High Court has taken a strong exception on the rising instances of fake complaints and misuse of legal provisions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act as well as the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, "to grab money" from the state.

While granting bail to a man accused of committing sexual offences, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav observed, "...There are certain instances of false FIRs (first information report) under the POCSO Act and the SC/ST Act lodged against innocent persons... It is very unfortunate that nowadays, in maximum cases, women are using it as a weapon just to grab money, which should be stopped."

Applicant Ajay Yadav had sought anticipatory bail in connection with a case that included allegations of offences under Sections 376 (rape), 313, 504, 506 of the Indian Penal Code, and Section 3/4 of the POCSO Act. The alleged incident took place in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh in 2011. The judge, in his order dated August 10, said, "I think it is high time that the state and even the Union of India, should become sensitive to this grave issue."



The court observed that if it was found that the complaint lodged by a victim was false, then criminal proceedings under the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) shall be initiated against the complainant after inquiry.

The judge also directed that any financial compensation given by the state to the complainant should be recovered in case the complaint was found to be frivolous.

The court further urged authorities to address this issue and ensure that the genuine victims of sexual offences get justice.

Appearing on behalf of the applicant, his counsel argued that he had been falsely implicated and that the incident never took place as alleged in the impugned FIR.

The applicant's counsel further highlighted certain inconsistencies in the victim's statements and pointed out that the victim's statement under Section 164 CrPC indicated a level of "consent" to the physical relationship.

I think it is high time that the state and even the Union of India, should become sensitive to this grave issue (of women using the POCSO Act and SC/ST Act) —Allahabad HC judge

Investors commit ₹6K cr for EV infra in UP

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

WITH an intent to turn the state an Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing hub, the Uttar Pradesh government has signed pacts worth ₹6,000 crore related to EVs and related infrastructure.

Prominent among the companies that evinced keen interest in investing in the sector is Hinduja group, which has agreed to set up a ₹1,000-crore EV manufacturing plant on a 100-acre land. Besides, Adani group and Tata group have signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with the state government at a round-table conference on Friday.

Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of electric vehicle registrations and the state accounts for around 25 per cent of the total EVs on roads in the country. As of February 2023, around 4,15,000 EVs were operating on the state's roads.

Speaking at the round table conference, state industrial development minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi assured the investors of all help. He offered 250-acre vacant land of BPCL in Prayagraj to the Hinduja project. "Our state-of-the-art policies, in line with the UP EV Manufacturing & Mobility Policy 2022, are designed to attract investments, promote sustainable transportation solutions, and create a thriving ecosystem for electric vehicles and associated industries," he said.

INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS FOR STATE AS EV HUB
(IN ₹ CR)
2,000 CASHurDRIVE for EV charging infra
2,000 Tata Power for charging solution
1,000 UP Grid Solution for battery-swapping
300 Servotech Power Systems for charging points
100 Adani Green Energy for EV charging infra
500 E-Risha for setting up of EV parks
EV

Hinduja Group demonstrated an upfront investment intent ranging from ₹500 crore to ₹1,000 crore.

Adani Group expressed intent to build an extensive charging infrastructure network with an investment proposal of around ₹1,000 crore over a span of five years. Their primary focus areas encompass 17 key cities and significant tourist destinations, spanning 700 km from Agra to Prayagraj and other expressways.

Similarly, E-Risha was interested in setting up EV parks spanning over 300 acres of land, with an initial investment of ₹500 crore staggered over three years, followed by an additional ₹1,000 crore over the subsequent seven years.

Prominent among those who attended the round table meeting are Ramkrishna Singh of Tata Group. He assured that Tata Power was ready to play an important role in setting up EV charging infrastructure in UP. Mahesh Babu, MD & CEO of Switch Mobility (Hinduja Group), said Hinduja group would be happy to work in UP's EV sector.

Our state-of-the-art policies are designed to attract investments, promote sustainable transportation solutions, and create a thriving ecosystem for EVs

Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, UP Industrial Development Minister

NATO-calibre weapons being transferred to ISIL-K: UN

UNITED NATIONS

NATO-calibre weapons were being transferred to ISIL-K (Islamic State—Khorasan Province) by groups affiliated with the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, as per a UN report.

The 17th report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), also known as Daesh, to international peace and security said that UN member states remained concerned about the proliferation of weapons in Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa, in particular the access by Daesh and its regional affiliates to small arms and light weapons, as well as their increased use of unmanned aircraft systems and improvised explosive devices.

Regional Member States reported that North Atlantic Treaty Organisation-calibre weapons typically associated with the former Afghan National Defence and Security Forces were being transferred to ISIL-K by groups affiliated with the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, such as Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement,' also known as the Turkistan Islamic Party (ETIM/TIP).

The report added that member states assessed ISIL-K as being the most serious terrorist threat in Afghanistan. The group has reportedly increased its operational capabilities inside Afghanistan, with fighters and family members estimated at 4,000 to 6,000 individuals.

PRO-ARMY

Caretaker Pak PM is a first-timer in the Upper House

Anwarul Haq Kakar is part of a party which is considered close to the powerful military

ISLAMABAD

SENATOR Anwarul Haq Kakar was on Saturday appointed the caretaker prime minister of Pakistan to head a neutral political set-up to run the cash-strapped country until the next general elections.

Kakar, 52, is an ethnic Pushtun from Balochistan province and a part of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP)—a party considered close to the powerful establishment of the country.

Kakar was elected to the Senate in 2018 and has been a very active politician. He has also served as the spokesperson of the Balochistan provincial government prior to his election to the upper house.

Born in 1971 in the Muslim Bagh area of Qila Saifullah district of Balochistan, Kakar holds a Master's degree in Political Science, Sociology and is an alumnus of the University of Balochistan.

According to the website of Senate of Pakistan, Kakar was a member of five committees which included Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (as Chairperson), Business Advisory Committee, Finance and Revenue, Foreign Affairs and Science and Technology committees.

Anwarul Haq Kakar, Pak caretaker PM

Political analyst Hasan Askari Rizvi told *AFP* that Kakar "has a limited political career and not much weight in Pakistani politics," but that could work in his favour.

"This can be an advantage because he has no strong affiliation with the major political parties," he said. "But the disadvantage is that being a lightweight politician he may find it difficult to cope with the problems he's going to face without the active support of the military establishment."

Analyst Ayesha Siddiqa, noting Kakar had done courses at the National Defence University—said he would be close to the establishment. "It seems that the establishment has struck and they have found somebody who will be watching over their interests rather than that of the politicians," she said. *Agencies*

ONLINE SPEECH IN JORDAN AN OFFENCE

AMMAN

THE King of Jordan approved a bill on Saturday to punish online speech deemed harmful to national unity, legislation that has drawn accusations of crackdown on free expression.

The measure makes certain online posts punishable with months of prison time as well as fines. These include comments "promoting, instigating, aiding, or inciting immorality," demonstrating "contempt for religion" or "undermining national unity."

It also punishes those who publish names or pictures of police officers online and outlaws certain methods of maintaining online anonymity.

With the approval of King Abdullah II, the bill now becomes law—set to take effect one month after it is published in the state newspaper, *Al-Rai*. The newspaper is expected to publish the law today.

After amending the bill to allow judges to choose between imposing prison time and fines, rather than ordering combined penalties, the Senate passed the bill on Tuesday. The measure was passed by Jordan's lower house of parliament in July.

Lawmakers have argued that the measure is necessary to punish blackmailers and online attackers.

But opposition lawmakers and human rights groups caution that the new law will expand state control over social media, hamper free access to information and penalise anti-government speech.

Jordan's King Abdullah II | AP

A coalition of 14 human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch (HRW), has called the law "draconian."

The groups say "vague provisions open the door for Jordan's executive branch to punish individuals for exercising their right to freedom of expression, forcing the judges to convict citizens in most cases."

The president of Jordan's press association also warned the language could infringe upon press freedom and freedom of speech.

The measure is the latest in a series of crackdowns on freedom of expression in Jordan. A report by HRW in 2022 found that authorities increasingly target protesters and journalists in a "systematic campaign to quell peaceful opposition and silence critical voices." *AP*

Death toll hits 80 as Hawaii starts investigation into wildfire handling

LAHAINA

HAWAII'S chief legal officer said on Friday she was opening a probe into the handling of devastating wildfires that killed at least 80 people in the state this week, as criticism grows of the official response.

The announcement and increased death toll came as residents of Lahaina were allowed back into the town for the first time—with most finding their homes reduced to ashes.

Over 2,200 structures were damaged or destroyed in the fire, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said, estimating that it would cost some $5.5 billion to rebuild affected communities.

Hawaii's Attorney General Anne Lopez said her office would examine "critical decision-making and standing policies leading up to, during and after the wildfires on Maui and Hawai'i islands this week." Anne Lopez added that her department would make the findings public.

Late on Friday, the officials of Maui County revised the death toll to 80, adding that 1,418 people were in emergency evacuation shelters.

The fires follow other extreme weather events in North America this summer, with record-breaking wildfires still burning across Canada and a major heat wave baking the US southwest.

Europe and parts of Asia have also endured soaring temperatures, with major fires and floods wreaking havoc. Scientists have said global warming caused by carbon emissions is contributing to the extreme weather.

County authorities said anyone accessing Lahaina would have to prove they lived or were staying at a hotel there, and that a curfew would be in place between 10 pm and 6 am. "The curfew is intended to protect residences and property," it said in a statement.

The number of people killed has surpassed the count from when a tsunami struck the Big Island in 1960.

"Without a doubt, there will be more fatalities. We don't know ultimately how many will have occurred," Governor Josh Green said. *AFP*

A man walks through wildfire wreckage in Lahaina, Hawaii on Friday | AP

S Koreans rally against Japan's plans to release N-wastewater

SEOUL

ANXIOUS about Japan's impending release of treated nuclear wastewater from the tsunami-damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant, hundreds of South Koreans marched in their capital on Saturday. Protesters called for Tokyo to abandon the plans, and expressed anger toward Seoul for endorsing the discharge despite alleged food safety risks.

Saturday's rally was the latest of weekslong protests since the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) approved the Japanese discharge plans in July, saying that the process would meet international safety standards and pose negligible environmental impacts.

Wearing raincoats and holding signs that read, "We oppose the disposal of Fukushima's contaminated water," and, "No radioactive material is safe for the sea," the demonstrators marched in light rain through the streets of downtown Seoul. The rallies were proceeding peacefully and there were no immediate reports of clashes or injuries. *AP*

CHINA EVACUATES RESIDENTS AND SEARCHES FOR MUDSLIDE VICTIMS

Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes in China's southwest after heavy rain, while two persons died and 16 are missing following a mudslide

RAIN DAMAGES ROADS, CROPS

Parts of China suffer heavy rains and flooding every summer, but this year has been unusually severe in some areas, while other regions struggle with drought that is damaging crops

Rescuers were searching for survivors after a mudslide killed at least two persons on Friday on the outskirts of the city of Xi'an, Xinhua reported. Roads and power supplies were damaged

Mudslide in Weiziping village of Luanzhen township in northwestern China's Shaanxi on Saturday | AP

TRAINS CANCELLED

More than 20 trains were cancelled in Shenyang, the biggest city in the northeast, and surrounding Liaoning province, according to state TV. *Xinhua* said the port city of Dalian in Liaoning forecast winds up to 88 kph

81,000 evacuated

In the southwest, some 81,000 people were evacuated from high-risk areas of Sichuan province, the China News Service reported

It said heavy rain caused hillsides to collapse and disrupted traffic, but there was no word of deaths or injuries

The remnants of storm Khanun, downgraded from typhoon status, were forecast to dump up to 40 millimetres of rain per hour on the northeastern city of Changchun and surrounding Jilin province

EXPRESS READ

Detained Niger prez seen by doctor: Source

Niamey: Niger's detained president was seen by his doctor on Saturday, his entourage said, amid mounting concern for his condition, while West Africa's regional bloc scrapped a crisis meeting on the coup that deposed him. Bazoum "had a visit by his doctor today," a member of his entourage told *AFP*, adding the physician had also brought food for Bazoum, his wife and son. "He's fine, given the situation," the source added. Mohamed Bazoum was toppled on July 26 by his presidential guard, which has since held him and his family at his residence.

Warning to stay away from Iranian waters

Dubai: Western-backed maritime forces in the Middle East on Saturday warned shippers travelling through the strategic Strait of Hormuz to stay as far away from Iranian territorial waters as possible to avoid being seized. US Navy Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins acknowledged the warning, but declined to discuss about it. A US-backed maritime group called the International Maritime Security Construct "is notifying regional mariners to minimize the risk of seizure based on current regional tensions...," Hawkins said.

Oz PM urges China to free jailed journo

SYDNEY: PM Anthony Albanese called on Saturday for China to release jailed Australian journalist Cheng Lei, saying he was worried about her condition after three years behind bars. Cheng has described her bleak prison conditions in a note dictated a note to Australian officials from her cell, saying she misses trees and sunlight but "most of all I miss my children." The message was shared with Australian news outlets and on the social media platform X by Cheng's partner, Nick Coyle, on Thursday. Asked if he was concerned about her welfare, Albanese said, "I certainly am, and Cheng should be released. This is three years too long." "Cheng Lei is an Australian citizen. She is someone who does not deserve this treatment," he told reporters during a visit to Queensland. Albanese said Australia had pressed for Cheng's release at the "highest levels" and would continue to do so "whenever Australia meets with China." AFP

PUBLIC NOTCIE

IT is for general information that I, **ODAYOTH KEEKAYPORTH NISHA**, D/o. N K Karunakaran and W/O Pradeep John Thomas Residing at No. B-103, Purva Venezia, Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore – 560064, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as **ODAYOTTH KEEKAYPORTH NISHA** in my IAF service record. The Actual name of mine is **ODAYOTH KEEKAYPORTH NISHA** which may be amended accordingly.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

EXTENSION OF SALE PERIOD FOR SRM E-TENDER NO. T-03/2023-24 RFx NO. 7000027806

The sale period & last date of submission for **RFx No. 7000027806, SRM E-Tender No.** T-03/2023-24 for Augmentation of Substation by providing additional transformers at 04 nos. of EHV Substations (132kV Nardana S/s, 132kV Khandke S/s, 132kV Ghodegaon S/s & 220kV Raymond S/s) under Nashik Zone is **Further Extended Up to** 18/08/2023 up to 13:00 Hrs. **Date of Opening (Tech. Bid):** 18/08/2023 at 15:00 Hrs (If possible). All other terms & conditions of the E-Tender will remain unchanged. For further details, please visit to **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
EHV PC (O&M) Zone, MSETCL, Nashik

THE ONLY CONSTANT IN THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS CHANGE › MITCHELL KAPOR
QuoteExpress

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, LOWER INDRA IRRIGATION PROJECT, KHARIAR
e-Procurement Notice No. CCELIIP-02/2023-24, Dt.10/08/2023
A-427 e-mail address:- celiipnuapada2016@gmail.com

1. Type/Nature of work: **Civil/ Road Works**
2. Total No. of works: **09 (Nine) Nos.**
3. Approx. value of works: **Rs.175.99 Lakhs to 432.08 Lakhs (Excluding GST).**
4. Period of completion: **6 (Six) Calendar months.**
5. Classification of bidders: **"B" & "A" Class Contractor only.**

Other details as follows:

Procurement Officer.	e-Procurement Notice No.	Availability & Submission of bids in online. From	To	Date & time of opening of tender.
1	2	3	4	5
Chief Construction Engineer, Lower Indra Irrigation Project, Khariar, Dist:-Nuapada, Odisha.	CCELIIP-02/2023-24	18.08.2023 from 10.00 AM	07.09.2023 up to 5.00 PM	08.09.2023 at 11.00AM

N.B: Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation to the above notice will be published in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, Lower Indra Irrigation Project
Khariar, Dist- Nuapada
OIPR-32366/11/0001/2324

Chola CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office : 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C Bose Road, Chennai-600001.
Branch Address : Municipal No.45, (Old Nos. 45& 45/1), Second Floor, Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560027.

CORRIGENDUM

Please Refer the Possession Notice published in this Newspaper on **12.08.2023** pertaining to the **(Loan Account No. X0HEBAN00002059890) Borrowers : (1) Venkatesh.G.N & Others.** In the details of the immovable property of the notice of possession, flat no. BG-11, area 3900 sqft, SBA, was wrongly printed. It is excluded for not taking possession of it. All other contents remains unchanged.

Date : 12.08.2023 Sd/-Authorised Officer
Place : Bangalore Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client **Sri.Nandan.B.K**, S/o. B.S.Krishnappa, R/at.No.55, Kannamangala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk - 562110 has intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owner viz., Smt.R.Jyothi W/o. Narayanaswamy, R/at. Bijjawara Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore District..

If any third party/s Person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, clients, charges or lien over the schedule property they are hear by requested to file the objections to this sale transaction or mortgage of said property to the financial intuitions/Bank/third parties and shell informed/said object the same in writing along with the photocopies, related such claims, objections through the RPAD with the under mentioned address within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

If no valid claim/objections are received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the aforesaid owner no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural property bearing property bearing Sy.No.71, measuring 0-30 guntas, out of measuring 5 acres 15 guntas, including 0-05 guntas Karbh situated at Thimmahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Bounded by: **East By:** Sy.No.73 & 76, **West by:** Sy.No.34,67,69 & 70, **North by:** Sy.No.66 & 76 and **South by:** Sy.No.31 & 71.

K.V. MAHENDRA KUMAR, Advocate
1st Floor, Abhay Complex, Above Union Bank, Sulibele Road,
Devanahalli – 562 110 M: 9538276877

REGIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF UNANI MEDICINE, (NABH Accredited)
(A Unit of CCRUM, Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the Director General, CCRUM, New Delhi, the Research Officer In-charge, RRIUM, Chennai, invites sealed Tender Quotations from reputed firms in two bid systems (Technical bid and commercial bid) for the supply of raw drugs and materials. The detailed list of raw drugs and materials and terms and conditions can either be downloaded from CCRUM website and CPPP or may be obtained from the office of the Research Officer In-charge, Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, No.1, West Mada Church Road, Royapuram, Chennai - 600013.

The last date for receipt of Quotations is 5th September 2023, 5:00pm. For any details, please check CCRUM website **www.ccrum.res.in**

Research Officer In-Charge

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CARRIAGE & WAGON WORKS
TENDER NOTICE NO: CWWCBCDROPPING2023

For and on behalf of President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Perambur, Chennai - 23 invites e-tender for the following work as per the tender notice given in e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

Name of work:- Dismantling & Fitment of Centre Buffer Coupler (CBC) & components in Wagons in the premises of Carriage & Wagon Workshop, Perambur

Approximate cash value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Bidding start date	Tender closing date and time	Cost of tender form (₹)	Period of Completion in months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1,69,14,432.00	2,34,600.00	28/08/2023	11/09/2023 at 15.00 Hrs.	NIL	12

Similar Nature of Work: Cutting/Stripping/Repair/Assembly/Maintenance/ Manufacture and supply of Components/ Sub-assemblies of Railway Rolling Stock (Coach/Wagon/ DEMU/ MEMU/ SPART/ Locomotive/ Metro Coach) in any unit of Indian Railways/Public Sector Undertaking units. (OR) Steel fabrication for defence/ shipping establishments/Railway applications/Heavy duty mobile machinery & plants for Govt. sector, manufactures for structural works of Refineries, Chemical, Cement Industries (OR) Manufacturing/Rebuilding/Rehabilitation/Renewal/Corrosion Repair attention / Modification/Fabrication work of Railway Rolling Stock (Coach/Wagon/ DEMU/ MEMU/ SPART/ Locomotive/ Metro Coach) in any unit of Indian Railways/ Public Sector Undertaking units/ Corporations of Central Government or State Government.

Website Address: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Office Address: Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023.

Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Retail Assets Central Processing Centre-II, KORAMANGALA
No.12, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala
Bengaluru-560034, Tel:080-25943803, Fax:080-25943805
Email: maintracpc2.ban@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

A/c.No: 4163/HL/3979- Account No.**34413172968**

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) issued a Demand Notice dated **01.06.2023** calling upon the borrowers **Smt. Sweta Mathur,** W/o. Kshitij Mathur & **Sri. Kshitij Mathur** S/o. Udai Narain Lal Mathur, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.49,30,737/-** (Rupees Forty Nine Lakhs Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven only) as on 30.05.2023 and you are also liable to pay future interest from 31.05.2023 and expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of thesaid notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on **11.08.2023.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.50,07,785/-** (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Five only) as on 06.08.2023 and you are also liable to pay future interest from 07.08.2023 and expenses thereon.

The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Deed of Sale Regd.Doc.No.HLS-1-04921-2014-15, CD. No. HLSD111 dated 27.01.2015 at SRO Halasuru, Bengaluru.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All That Piece and Parcel of the residentially converted lands bearing Survey Nos. 53/1 and 54, admeasuring 9 acres, situated at Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East (formerly South) Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural / residential purposes vide Official Memorandum No. B.DIS.ALN. SR.(S) 270/91-92, dated 20.04.1992 issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner and presently bearing BBMP Katha No. 2970/1 Kasavanahalli Grama, Bellandur Sub Division, bounded on the East by: Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 53/1 and 54, West by: Property of Military, North by: Road and South by: Property of Military.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: 407 Square feet of Undivided Share, right, title and interest in all that piece and parcel of the Schedule "A" Property.

SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : A Three-bedroom apartment bearing No. H 1504, Fourteenth Floor, Block No. H of the Residential Apartment Complex known as "EVER GREENS" built on the Schedule 'A' Property measuring 1216 square feet super built-up area together with proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircases and other areas of common use and exclusive right to use the 1 no of surface car park, flooring- vitrified tiles, standing in the joint names of Smt. Sweta Mathur & Sri. Kshitij Mathur

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
STATE BANK OF INDIA
RACPC-II, Koramangala, Bengaluru

Place:Bengaluru
Date: 11.08.2023

QuoteExpress IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

34% fall in net profit at ₹10,015 crore Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) reported on Saturday for June quarter on decline in oil prices and lower output

India Inc takes giant leaps in empowering women

A few cos announce all-women production line to unlock their potential

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

ORGANISATIONS across sectors are now making extra efforts to increase women's participation in the workforce as they say female participation creates a very productive work environment. Recently, a few companies announced all-women production line to unlock their potential and create an inclusive work environment.

Companies from Ola, Ashok Leyland, Berger Paints to Bosch and JSW Paints, among other prominent companies, have employed all-women production lines or factories.

In March this year, heavy commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland unveiled its all-women production line in Tamil Nadu. Ashok Leyland has been manufacturing commercial vehicles for the past 75 years. "The industry had largely been a man's space but as we look at the future, the way the mobility space and vehicles are getting transformed into alternate fuels powered vehicles, advanced telematics or on-board diagnostics, if you don't have an inclusive workforce then we can't be a company which is agile and getting itself ready for future," says Raja Radhakrishnan, President & head of HR, Ashok Leyland.

The company has set up the all-women engine assembly line with 80 women employees at its Hosur plant. Its driver training institutes have also been training a large number of women in heavy commercial vehicle driving.

Everything in the production line is being done by women – right from maintenance to supply to the actual production itself. "This initiative has helped us break the mindset that this is man's job and factory is man's world. This led to having an inclusive workforce inside the factory which creates a very productive work environment across the organisation," Radhakrishnan says, adding that women are very agile and in terms of numbers, they see a very good increase in productivity.

Bosch's Oragadam plant, established in mid-2015 in Chennai, has a 100% women workforce and has been manufacturing a diverse range of over 60 power tools, including eight specialised types for artisans and tradespeople.

Suresh B R, Country head of human resources, Bosch Limited, says elevating awareness is a crucial step in our journey towards inclusivity.

JSW Paints operates the entire Wood Finishes line at its unit in Vasind, Maharashtra with women employees. "This semi-automated line is managed completely by women employees from processing to packing the Beauteak range of wood finishes. JSW Paints is in the process of preparing its Colourant line at its other plant in Vijayanagara, Karnataka to be managed by women in the coming quarter," says A S Sundaresan, Joint MD and CEO of JSW Paints.

JSW Paints also has women in frontline roles and customer relationship officers servicing retail market in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Mumbai. Berger Paints, which commenced production in its Sandila plant in UP earlier this year, has one section -- a colorant and Stainer unit – that is operated by women. "The unit doesn't require any great physical labor, and the company has recruited ITI trained girls in the plant and they are doing a fabulous job there," Berger Paints CEO Abhijit Roy had told TNIE in an earlier interaction.

FIRMS NEED TO NARROW DIVERSITY GAP

From manufacturing to IT, across sectors companies take steps to narrow diversity gap, but women's workforce participation is still low in the country. Country's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which employs 35.7% of the women workforce, has been seeinghigher attrition among its female employees.In its annual report, TCS chief human resource officer Milind Lakkad said the higher attrition among women in FY23 is a setback to "our efforts to promote gender diversity but we are doubling down on it."

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in the IT sector, women are exiting the workforce at a rate twice that of men. "In recent months, the attrition rate among female employees has surged to levels ranging from 30% to 40%, a stark contrast to the typical sector attrition rate of around 15%. Women in mid-career roles, typically aged between 30 and 40 years are mostly exhibiting this trend. This group faces the challenge of managing a disproportionate share of childcare and domestic responsibilities, leading them to make the difficult decision to leave their jobs," says Anjali Raghuvanshi, Chief People Officer, Randstad India.

The insistence on returning to the office has proven to be counterproductive to employee retention efforts, resulting in higher turnover rates across all segments of the workforce. This shift is mainly detrimental to women, as they bear a significant burden of domestic caregiving responsibilities. Any alteration in work flexibility models tends to impact women more profoundly, she adds. As per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) reports, the estimated Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) on usual status for women of age 15 years and above in the country was 30.0%, 32.5% and 32.8% during 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.

Another important challenge in female workforce participation is pay parity. The wage disparity has been widening between men and women. Also, there are only a few women in mid-senior level positions in organisations.

"It is alarming that men in India hold a substantial 80-82% share of labour income, while women's earnings remain much lower at 18-20%. Though there is a high pay parity in India, the situation is improving and notably, there has been an augmentation in economic opportunities for women, with an increased representation in roles such as legislators, senior officials, technical workers, and managers," says Raghuvanshi.

Nirupama VG, founder and managing director, AdAstra Consultants, women-owned full-suite recruitment solutions firm, quotes an IIM Ahmedabad study that indicates only 5% of top roles in Indian companies are occupied by women. For a comprehensive decision-making process, boardroom diversity is paramount. Also, women-led startups are very few in India. Nirupama says while 18% have at least one woman leader, as per Nasscom's report, there's ample room for growth.

"Presently, there are women-owned funds which are supporting women-owned businesses and that will go a long way to support such organisations," she adds.

Gender parity at workplace

Total women workforce at Bosch's power tools plant in Chennai is **258**

Currently, Ashok Leyland's Hosur plant has **22%** women in its workforce

At 24%, life sciences sector leads with the highest percentage of women on boards

JSW PAINTS IS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING ITS COLOURANT LINE AT ITS OTHER PLANT IN VIJAYANAGARA, KARNATAKA TO BE MANAGED BY WOMEN

The Code on Wages 2019 has provisions that there shall be no discrimination or any unit thereof among employees on the ground of gender

According to EY report, NEARLY 95% of the NIFTY 500 companies now have a woman on the board of directors

However, less than 5% of companies have female Chairpersons

NEWSCOPE

YOUR SAVOURY SNACKS MAY GET COSTLIER

BRIJESH KOTHARY, TEESTA BANERJEE & SAUNDARYA SINHA

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

EARLY this month, the government issued a circular to provide clarification on GST rates and classification of certain goods based on recommendations in the 50th GST Council meeting held on August 11, 2023. One such clarification was with respect to applicable rate of GST on snack pellets in ready-to-eat form, wherein it is clarified that such goods, manufactured through the process of extrusion, attract GST at the rate of 18%.

The term, "ready-to-eat" snack, as mentioned in the circular, includes a wide range of products in the food industry which are typically extruded, a process which is used for food manufacturing. The clarification targets "Extruded or expanded products, savoury or salted" that are classified under Chapter Heading (CTH) 1905 of the Customs tariff. As a result, the clarification creates an ambiguity regarding the basis for deciding the GST rate on such savoury or salted snack items, as now one is not sure if the nature of the food product is enough to decide the GST rate or if the manufacturing process is equally important, or maybe more important, to decide the GST rate of such products.

One particular category of these snack items that may be impacted from this clarification is traditional snacks such as namkeens which are currently taxed at 12% GST. It is interesting to note that namkeens generally undergo the process of extrusion to prepare in ready-to-eat form. Considering that such products are ready-to-eat snacks and are manufactured by way of extrusion, it would be crucial to determine whether such items are taxable at 12% or 18%.

To elaborate further, the issue which arises in light of the clarification is that whether any snack item which undergoes the process of extrusion will be hit by the clarification or the general rules of interpretation will prevail if there is a specific heading provided under the Customs tariff. One might debate that namkeens manufactured by following the process of extrusion should be taxed at 18% as that would be a specific heading for classifying such items. Consequently, namkeens manufactured otherwise should be taxed at 12% GST.

"Extruded or expanded products, savoury or salted", as provided in the circular, is not even covered as an entry in the GST Rate Notification. CTH 1905, which covers "extruded or expanded products, savoury or salted", otherwise covers bakery products or bakers' wares. Therefore, extending the applicability of the clarification provided in the circular to a ready-to-eat salted snack item, which goes through process of extrusion might not be right approach to determine classification.

Here, we may also take the case of good old Bhujia as an example. While the manufacturing process of bhujia also involves extrusion, by virtue of it being specifically covered under Schedule II of the GST Rate Notification, whether it will continue to be taxed at 12% GST or because of extrusion process, the clarification in the circular will apply and bhujia will have to be covered under Schedule III and taxed at 18%.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Since the clarification has been given the status of being regularised on "as is" basis, there may not be any issue for the past period. However, the circular leaves enough scope for interpretation to tax any salted snack item in ready-to-eat form at 18% as against the industry's practice of paying GST at 12% on such products. It is only a matter of time before the applicability of the circular is extended to apply retrospectively, which might have a significant impact on differential tax payment for such snack items. The question as to whether the circular can override the statute and tariff entries to decide rate of tax is another point which will be prone to challenge.

Brijesh Kothary is partner, Teesta Banerjee is an associate partner and Saundarya Sinha is an associate at Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys

Adani Ports & SEZ says Deloitte's reason for resignation not convincing

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE audit committee of Adani Port and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has appointed MSKA & Associates as the company's auditor after the resignation of Deloitte & Haskin LLP.

MSKA & Associates is an independent member firm of BDO International, a top six global audit firm.

In a statement issued on Saturday, GK Pillai, Chairman of Audit Committee of APSEZ, said the committee is of the view that the reason given by Deloitte for resignation as statutory auditor were not convincing or sufficient to warrant such a move. As per the company, in a recent meeting with the management of the company, Deloitte had indicated a lack of a wider audit role as auditors of other listed Adani portfolio companies. However, the audit committee conveyed to Deloitte that it is not within the remit of the APSEZ and its board to recommend group-wide appointments as other listed Adani portfolio companies are completely independent, with separate boards, executive teams and minority shareholders.

"Following this, Deloitte was not willing to continue as APSEZ's statutory auditor and, therefore, it was agreed to amicably end the client-auditor contractual relationship between APSEZ and Deloitte," the statement said. The company, however, said Deloitte has confirmed that they have received all the APSEZ information from the management of the company, and that the same has been confirmed by Deloitte in their resignation letter dated August 12, 2023, to the company.

Deloitte has been the statutory auditor of APSEZ since May 2017. In July 2022, the company reappointed Deloitte as its statutory auditor for another term of five years.

In its resignation letter, Deloitte has said that it is tendering its resignation as statutory auditor of the company with immediate effect because it is not the auditor of a substantial number of Adani Group companies.

EXPRESS READ

JK Cement net profit down 29.4% to ₹113.46 crore in Q1

NEW DELHI: JK Cement Ltd on Saturday reported a 29.43% decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹113.46 crore for the first quarter of current fiscal (Q1FY24). It had posted a net profit of ₹160.79 crore in Q1 a year ago. Revenue from operations was up 21.57% to ₹2,762.62 crore during the quarter as against ₹2,272.38 crore in the year-ago period. *ENS*

Apple maker Foxconn to invest $400 million in Telangana

NEW DELHI: Taiwanese electronic manufacturer Foxconn announced $400 million investment in Telangana. This is the second investment announcement by the Taiwanese company in past six months. It has already laid foundation for its plant at Kongara Kalan in the state that was announced in March 2023. *ENS*

Data protections bill becomes law after President's assent

NEW DELHI: The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2023(DPDP), which proposes to safeguard the data of citizen, became law after assent by the president Droupadi Murmu. The government on Saturday notified the Bill, which proposes ₹250 crore penalty in case of data breach, is the first law made for privacy of Indian citizens. *ENS*

Business & Beyond

MOIL records best ever July production, registers growth of 71 % YoY

Despite the challenge of heavy rainfall, MOIL has maintained its production tempo and achieved its highest-ever July production since inception in July 2023.With manganese ore production of 1.20 lakh tonnes during July, 2023, a remarkable growth of 71% has been registered compared to corresponding period last year (CPLY). On salesfront, MOIL has achieved best-ever July sales of 0.94 lakh tonne in July 2023, a 69%growth. CMD, Shri Ajit Kumar Saxena, once againcongratulated MOIL collective for their achievementsand expressed happiness over the sustained efforts being made to enhance production resulting in best July performance, despite adverse weather conditions.

PPA becomes fastest Major Port to handle 50 MMT Cargo in current fiscal

Paradip Port achieved a major milestone by clocking record cargo throughput of 50.16 MMT Cargo on 8th August, 2023, by exhibiting 6.5% growth over the corresponding period of previous fiscal. This feat has been achieved by the Port in 129 days in the current fiscal compared to 140 days during the previous year. PPA has also handled record 942 nos. of Vessels in comparison to 812 nos. handled in the corresponding period of previous fiscal. For the above feat, Shri P.L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA expressed his gratitude to Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Ji, Hon'ble Minister of MoPSW under whose dynamic leadership and guidance, PPA could turn a new chapter. He said, "Together, with the unwavering support of our dedicated workforce and the collective will of our nation, we shall continue to script remarkable success stories for Paradip Port—a story that exemplifies growth, sustainability, and a brighter tomorrow for generations to come."

Repco Home Finance reports ₹89 crore net profit in first quarter

Repco Home Finance Limited has reported a ₹89 crore net profit for the first quarter of the current financial year (Q1FY24), as compared to ₹62 crore in the same period the previous year. Net interest income stood at ₹162 crore in Q1FY24 as compared to ₹137 crore in the year-ago period, resulting in healthy margins of 5.1%. Total income stood at ₹367 crore in the said quarter as compared to ₹307crore, registering a growth of 19%. GNPA amounted to ₹695 crore as of June 30, 2023, resulting in a return on equity of 15.8% as against ₹763 crore as of June 30, 2022, and ₹719 crore as of March 31, 2023, showing a gradual decline. NNPA constituted ₹338 crore of the loan assets as of June 30, 2023, as against ₹482crore as of June 30, 2022, and ₹362crore as of March 31, 2023, showing a similar decline. Loans sanctions stood at ₹726 crore as compared to ₹691 crore, registering a growth of 5%. Loan disbursements stood at ₹684 crore as compared to ₹642 crore.

OPGC pays dividend to state and contributes to Chief Minister's Relief fund

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (OPGC), on Wednesday, handed over a cheque of ₹103.37 crore to the Chief Minister of Odisha for the year 2022-23. The Cheque was handed over by MD of OPGC Sri P K Mohapatra to the CMO, in presence of Hon'ble Minister of Energy, GoO Sri Pratap Keshari Deb. Development Commissioner Ms. Anu Garg, Addl. Chief Secretary, Energy Sri. Nikunja B Dhal., CMD of OPTCL Sri Sanjay Kumar Mishra & other senior officials of Energy Department were present on this occasion. On the same occasion, OPGC also contributed a sum of Rs.2 crore to Chief Minister Relief Fund.

Vedanta Aluminium's thermal engineers drive excellence at power operations

New Delhi:Vedanta Aluminium, the largest aluminium producer in India, also has among thelargest captive thermal power portfolios in India,with a massive capacity of about 5500 MW of thermal powerspread across Jharsuguda and Lanjigarh in Odisha and BALCO in Korba, Chhattisgarh. The responsibility of keeping this complex and extensive aluminium production at peak performance has been entrusted to the company's 5,500 thermal engineers and technical staff, who together comprise one of the largest pools of thermal power professionals in the country. Aluminium is the second most important metal in the world today and its production is a continuous process that relies on a non-stop supply of high-quality power. Together, they ensure that Vedanta Aluminium's extensive power needs are met througha consistent and stable supply of thermal energy, helping it cater to the nation's needs.

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | SPORT

Gill, Jaiswal fifties take India home

India beat West Indies by nine wickets in the fourth T20 International to level the five-match series 2-2 in Lauderhill (US) on Saturday. West Indies posted 178 for 8, riding on a half-century by Shimron Hetmyer (61). In reply, India reached the target in 17 overs with **Yashasvi Jaiswal** (84 n.o) and Shubman Gill (77) sharing a 165-run partnership.
Brief scores: WI 178/8 in 20 ovs (Hetmyer 61; Arshdeep 3/38) lost to India 179/1 in 17 ovs (Jaiswal 84 n.o, Gill 77).

Change in style, more substance

After early discomfort due to change in style of play, Harmanpreet & Co have learnt to adapt to coach Fulton's ideas

ROAD TO TITLE

bt China	7-2
drew Japan	1-1
bt Malaysia	5-0
bt South Korea	3-2
bt Pakistan	4-0
bt Japan (SF)	5-0
bt Malaysia (final)	**4-3**

Indian players celebrate after the final against Malaysia | ASHWIN PRASATH

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

DURING Craig Fulton's first full press conference as coach of the men's hockey side, he raised eyebrows when he effectively suggested he was going to recalibrate India's stylistic DNA. Traditionally, the country had been brought up on receiving the ball and going up the other end in search of goals as quickly as possible. They didn't tend to do much of ball retention. It was always a gung-ho brand of hockey, something that had reached its modern peak at the Tokyo Games when Graham Reid, the coach Fulton replaced, led the side to a bronze.

In essence, that bronze-medal winning game of 4-3 against Germany summed up Indian hockey. When it clicked, it was hockey on steroids. When it didn't, it was a bit daft; amateur hour. In short, they managed to thrive in their own chaos.

It's this chaos that Fulton wanted to stop. Be more commanding as well as more boring across 60 minutes. Be more like Belgium, in a way. "I think philosophy wise, I would like to defend to win," Fulton had said in May. "I would like to have our defensive structures in place because that's the first step of attacking. If we try to play a counter-attacking style, it doesn't help if you can't defend, so you would never win the ball back to counter attack. At the same time what happens if you are 2-0 down? You can't sit in your own half and you have to make the game then. You're going to have to high press, you're going to have to put the opposition under pressure. We're going to need to do both."

Did he think he had the players at his disposal to carry out his ideology? "Yes, I think it will take a bit of time, but it's also making sure we are harnessing the DNA of the team, which is fast, it's skillful, it's connected, it's counter-attack, it's very strong on set pieces, fantastic penalty corner defence, good goalkeepers. It has all the ingredients. It's more a case of really being able to be composed enough to do it and execute. And especially you know the offense because we got some good strikers, but we need them to really fire and really connect well together. And based on a solid defensive structure."

After the first three months of Fulton's reign, one of the biggest pluses is this — he may have come in with a grand message but he has got the most vital currency needed to implement that message. Players' buy-in. Even though a few of them were confused to begin with, they are now fully behind the 48-year-old. "Under Reid it was all about playing attacking hockey," Nilakanta Sharma, an all-action midfielder, tells this daily. "But under Fulton, he believes in 'defend to win' philosophy. Under Reid we used to play full press hockey but Fulton feels that if we press full, then 'ok counter it may be a problem for us'."

It's one of the tweaks Fulton has implemented with the backroom staff. India do not employ the full-court press anymore. Their press is more measured, a half-court one. In football terms, the World No 4 do not do Jurgen Klopp's full-metal style. These days, they are more cautious, think about Jose Mourinho's peak Real Madrid teams. They retained attacking verve and flair but it didn't come at the cost of a flaky back door.

Needless to say that such a radical shift in the DNA left a few players confused. "In Spain (four-nations), when we went we were a bit confused," Sharma says. But as we played, we have learnt and now every player has understood the style of play."

Speaking about his own contributions, Sharma now has to essay twin roles. "So every player now has a dual role. I play as an attacking midfielder and I also switch to a defensive midfielder as and when needed and I can replace an attacking midfielder or a defensive midfielder as per the situation."

The changes include playing with two pivots to guard against conceding during transitions. Some of these changes were in the flesh during the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai. Sure, you can question whether two pivots are needed against the likes of China and South Korea but it's about inculcating a system in place so that they are ready when the big sides — Australia have enjoyed significant success just because of transitions — come calling. Hardik Singh, who has played as one of the two pivots in the middle, is intimate when asked about playing under Fulton. "My role has not changed too much," he says. "But we are receiving more tactical and strategic instructions before games now. The focus has been learning to recognise moments. When to press, when to drop, when to push forward."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

CONTINENTAL TREAT

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

WERE you not entertained? In a frankly ridiculous final between Malaysia and India — seven goals, penalty stroke, cards, fights... basically the whole nine yards — the hosts prevailed in a fashion that will make several Kollywood writers borrow ideas for years to come.

The blue touch paper was lit in the dying embers of a third quarter which descended into mayhem after India were awarded a stroke with less than one minute remaining. Harmanpreet Singh duly converted. Less than 20 seconds later, the Men In Blue came charging again and equalised, Gurjant Singh just about finishing from close range. 1-3 had become 3-3 in a few blinks of an eye and the sound inside the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium resembled the ones fans generally make outside theatres ahead of star releases. They had one more attack in the third stanza but ran out of time. The question was would they run out of momentum in the final quarter? The answer was no. They kept coming at Malaysia who were tiring after making all the running in the first 30 minutes. The end result was conceding a string of penalty corners. While India didn't capitalise, they needn't have worried as Akashdeep Singh finished from just inside the D. After that, the World No. 4, who last jointly-held this title in 2018 with Pakistan, managed to do what they had seldom done in the match — frustrate the visitors. It began all so serenely for the hosts. They had little complaints when Jugraj Singh powered a drag-flick past the keeper to make it 1-0 in the 9th minute. Strangely enough, they were just about beginning to lose their grip.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Despite spending lakhs, judokas miss foreign event

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

IT'S rare but there have been instances when a few national sports federations (NSFs) have demanded a fixed amount from athletes as a security deposit before participation in international events. The amount is being used for bearing penalties levied in case an athlete does not compete in the requested international event. Judo Federation of India (JFI), however, seems to have taken it to the next level by asking each judoka wishing to compete at an international tournament to submit ₹50,000 as the security deposit and making the sum non-refundable.

Even as the guidelines were framed last year, judokas felt their impact recently when a delay in the issuance of visas for an international event caused them financial losses to the tune of more than a lakh each. As many as 27 judokas including cadet, junior, senior and veteran were scheduled to compete at the Commonwealth Judo Championships — 2023 at Gqeberha, Port Elizabeth (South Africa) from August 2 to 6. But most of them had to cancel the trip to the rainbow nation as they got visas quite late. Only seven athletes from the country participated in the event. "I have paid the security deposit, booked flight tickets, done registration for the tournament and even paid for local transport. Overall I have spent over ₹1 lakh but had to miss the event due to a delay in getting the visa," a judoka told this daily requesting anonymity. The judoka was a strong contender to finish on the podium which in turn could have helped her recover expenses through prize money.

The chances of pocketing medals were quite high in the tournament and it can be gauged by the fact that seven judokas from the country won eight medals (one judoka won a gold each in senior and junior categories) including six gold and two silver. The Indian contingent had bagged 48 medals and 117 medals in the 2019 and 2018 editions respectively.

Another judoka, who also missed the tournament, had to borrow money for flight tickets and other expenditures. "It's not about security deposit only. We have to arrange for our accommodation, visa, flight tickets and local transportation. It's not easy as we all are unemployed and have to arrange funds to meet these expenses," said the judoka.

In the wake of the order of the Delhi High Court, the JFI is being run by an administrator, retired Justice Pankaj Naqvi, since June 2022. He is being guided by an advisory board but none of them were available for their comments on the issue.

As far the guidelines are concerned, Rajan CS, assistant secretary of JFI, mailed them to each affiliated member on July 23 last year. "The JFI advisory committee has framed the guidelines. The security deposit is mandatory as it helps in bearing penalties levied in case a judoka misses the event. The guidelines have been framed for two years," Rajan told this daily.

While making security deposit mandatory is not a new concept making it non-refundable is extremely rare. "It used to be refundable in the past but making it non-refundable has made it difficult for every judoka. The irony is that the JFI arbitrarily exempts a few judokas from the clause," one of the coaches told this daily on condition of anonymity.

Rajan also admitted that a few judokas who could not compete in the championships due to late issuance of visas have raised the issue with the JFI. "Why have these judokas taken the issue to the media when we have assured them a solution? We will have a meeting in this regard and return the security deposit to those who couldn't compete after speaking to all stakeholders." The assistant secretary, however, couldn't justify why the security deposit clause was made non-refundable.

From remote village to Youth Games podium, Ashakiran's brave run

KALYANI MANGALE @Chennai

WHEN the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, like other countries, India went under a lockdown in March 2020. All the recreational activities were closed, including sports. At that time, Ashakiran Barla, the silver medalist at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games, was training at the Jharkhand State Sports Promotion Society. With the academy closing, she had to go home. At home, with all the lockdown restrictions, she could not continue her practice. Frustrated with this situation, her coach, Ashu Bhatia, decided to bring her to his home in Bokaro.

Not knowing when she would get the opportunity to compete, Bhatia decided to keep the practice going, and there were no complaints from his pupil. "I stayed with Bhatia sir at his place in October 2022," Barla told this daily. "We used to practice in the middle of the night, from 2 till 6 in the morning," she added.

Bhatia believes he needed to support this talented athlete when she needed the most. "She lives in a remote village. When I called Ashakiran during the lockdown, she told me her family was not keeping well. I decided to bring her to my place and train as much as possible." All hard work helped her win a gold medal in 800m at the 2022 Asian U18 Athletics Championships in Kuwait, her first international medal. And now, she has won the silver medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the same event in Trinidad and Tobago.

This journey started in the village of Nawaidh, approximately 100km from the state capital Ranchi. A place so remote, there was no electricity or road connectivity till a little while ago. There is still no proper source of water, and during summer, the villagers still have to cover long distances

Ashakiran Barla (L) with sister & coach

just for some water. In such dire conditions for her family, Sister Divya Jojo spotted Barla's talent for running. "She saw me in the school events and picked up my talent for running. I used to play hockey, but she took me to competitions in Ranchi, and that's how it all started. Later, when I got selected for the nationals for the first time, she gave me the first shoes," a grateful Barla said.

In one of those national competitions, Bhatia saw her talent for the first time. "I remember when I saw her for the first time, she was just a kid with lots of potential. I thought, if this girl can get the correct training and other facilities, the sky's the limit for her. And when I started working with her, I could see how eager she was to practice. Whatever training I used to give her, she would never say no to any of the training routines. That's what makes her special," Bhatia reminisced. After success at the youth level, Barla and her coach have their eyes set on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. "We were not thinking about the 2024 Olympics because she is just 17 now. By the time of the 2028 edition, she will be around 22, potentially at the peak of her powers for 800m. That is our realistic aim. I am confident she will make us proud," Bhatia added.

The 17-year-old has overcome many adversities to reach where she is right now. And just like her idol, PT Usha, she might inspire many to take up athletics soon.

Vishal, Antim threaten to protest

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

TIRED of waiting for trials as promised by the ad-hoc committee consisting of ex-Wushu Association of India chief Bhupender Singh Bajwa and national shooting coach Suma Shirur, wrestlers Vishal Kaliraman and Antim Panghal on Saturday warned of a massive protest if they were denied a berth in the national teams for the Asian Games and the World Championships.

The duo won the Asian Games trials in their respective weight categories last month. Ironically, the wins did not ensure them a place in the team for the quadrennial event as Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat were given a direct entry into the squad and the duo was kept as a standby by the ad-hoc panel. Interestingly, Bajrang and Vinesh have not participated at any competition since September last year.

"We were told that trials will be held by August 10 and winners will be selected for Asian Games and the world championships. It did not happen. Then we were told that the newly-elected body of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will conduct the trials. Now the election of the WFI scheduled on Saturday has been postponed and so again there is uncertainty over the trials. We don't know if this is a deliberate ploy to not hold selections. How long should we wait for the trials?" said Vishal, who competes in the 65kg, the same weight category as of Bajrang.

Vishal Kaliraman (L) & Antim Panghal (R)

Antim also questioned Vinesh's inclusion in 53kg wherein she won the trials. "This is injustice and we will fight till the end to get what is our right. Let them beat us in the trials and then go to the Asian Games and Worlds."

With section 144 of the CrPC in force in the wake of Independence Day, the wrestlers said they are waiting till August 15 and will stage a protest if trials are not conducted by then. "When they launched the protest, they claimed they are fighting for youngsters and other wrestlers. Now what happened? They are the ones who are taking away the rights of the upcoming wrestlers. If the protest can get them a place in the team without trials, then even we can hold the protest. Our Sisai village (Hansi tehsil) is one of the biggest villages in Haryana. We are in talks with most of the khaps here. If the trials are not conducted soon then even we can hold the protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi after August 15," said Krishnan, elder brother of Vishal.

Krishnan said a trial should be held soon and winners from it should represent the country in both Asian Games and World Championships.

EXPRESS READ

Kohli refutes reports of his Insta earnings

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli on Saturday refuted reports that he earns `11.4 crore for each sponsored post through Instagram. A report by instagram scheduling tool Hopper HQ, tagged as Instagram Rich List 2023, placed Kohli's income from per post on the meta platform over `11 crore, which the former Indian captain termed "not true."

Arsenal survive scare, Manchester City cruise

LONDON: Arsenal's Premier League title challenge got off to a winning start on Saturday, but the Gunners were made to sweat in a 2-1 victory over Nottingham Forest. On Friday, Man City posted a 3-0 win over Burnley. **Results: Friday:** Burnley **0-3** Man City. **Saturday:** Arsenal **2-1** Forest; Bournemouth **1-1** West Ham; Brighton **4-1** Luton; Everton **0-1** Fulham; Sheffield **0-1** Crystal Palace.

2 Indian women make cut in a Major for first time

LONDON: In a first for Indian women's golf, two players from the country have made the cut at a Major together with Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar producing back-nine heroics to progress to the third round at the Women's Open at Walton Heath. Aditi went 3-under for the back nine and Diksha played the back nine in 2-under and made the cut. Aditi (72-69) was Tied-ninth while Diksha was Tied-47th.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Australia in semis for first time, to meet England next

AGENCIES @Brisbane

CO-HOSTS Australia beat France 7-6 in a thrilling penalty shoot-out to reach the semifinals of the Women's World Cup for the first time in their history on a night of drama in Brisbane on Saturday. Australia now go to Sydney on Wednesday to face England, after they defeated Colombia 2-1.

Cortnee Vine scored the winning penalty for Australia to end a remarkable shoot-out that saw both teams take 10 spot-kicks, the quarter-final having ended 0-0 after 120 nerve-shredding minutes. Vine held her nerve to send the crowd into raptures and keep the Matildas' dream of winning the World Cup on home soil alive.

Australian players rejoice after the end of the quarterfinal tie against France | AFP

Australia goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold had missed a chance to win the shoot-out when her kick hit the post, but then saved twice from Kenza Dali after the VAR spotted she had both feet off her line the first time. Vicki Becho missed France's 10th penalty, and it was left to Vine to take Australia through by beating France's substitute goalkeeper Solene Durand, who had been sent on especially for the shoot-out.

RESULTS: Australia 0 (7)- 0 (6) France, England 2-1 Colombia

"I'm so freaking proud about this team. The bravery that they showed tonight, unbelievable," said Australia coach Tony Gustavsson. "I think we'll have maybe tonight to celebrate it and then tomorrow we'll review it and move on to the next game," added Arnold, the player of the match.

It was an agonising way for France to go out after a tense encounter watched by a sell-out crowd of 49,461. Les Bleues had been hoping to get to the semi-finals for just the second time, following their defeat in the last four in 2011, but instead go home. "We had a whole stadium and a nation against us. We produced an exceptional performance, but that's football. It was destiny," French coach Herve Renard told broadcaster France 2. "Good luck to Australia. I think we deserved more but that's how it is."

Australia's victory was achieved despite Sam Kerr again being left on the bench at kick-off, with the talismanic Matildas captain, now fit after a calf injury, coming on early in the second half and going on to convert her penalty in the shoot-out.

BIRTH OF REPUBLIC

JULY 16, 1947 — **Lords pass India Bill through all stages:** The House of Lords passed the India Independence Bill through all its stages. Royal assent came two days later

JULY 22, 1947 — **Flag of free India:** The Constituent Assembly decided that the national flag shall be saffron-white-green Tricolour, with Ashoka wheel in the middle

JULY 22, 1947 — **Nehru Presents Free India's Flag to Constituent assembly:** Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presents to the Constituent Assembly the flag of free India that has the Ashoka Chakra in place of the spinning wheel in the flag of the Congress

AUG 15, 1947 — **India celebrates freedom:** India has awakened to her freedom. Immediately after the stroke of 12 midnight the Constituent Assembly of India took over governance of the country

NOV 26, 1949 — **New Constitution adopted:** The Constituent Assembly passed the Constitution at 11.10 am with only one dissenting voice. Dr Rajendra Prasad signed the Constitution at 11.12 am

JAN 26, 1950 — **Rajendra Prasad Babu elected as first President:** Constituent Assembly unanimously elects Dr Rajendra Prasad as the first President of the Indian Republic to be inaugurated on January 26

JAN 24, 1950 — **Jana Gana Mana is National Anthem:** President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr Rajendra Prasad, announced Jana Gana Mana as the national anthem and that Vande Mataram as national song

JAN 24, 1950 — **India Proclaimed as Sovereign:** The birth of Indian sovereign democratic Republic proclaimed at 10.18 am by last Governor-General Chakravarti Rajagopalachari at the Durbar Hall at Government House

RECALLING THE BIRTH OF INDEPENDENT INDIA

KETAN NAROTTAM TANNA @ New Delhi

THE story of India's independence from colonial rule is one of exhilaration and pain at the same time, the eventual embrace of fate, and, above all, hope and determination to thrive despite the historical cards dealt. As the country enters the 76th year of independence, a bit of looking back at how it came about, the framing of the Constitution that has stood the test of time despite the occasional knocks it takes, and the eventual declaration of the Indian Republic, ought to make us appreciate the value of that hard-fought independence.

We pick up the threads from the Indian Independence Act, which gave legislative shape to the decision to vivisect India. Partition on religious lines was in the works much before Mountbatten arrived in India in 1947. Maps were drawn and redrawn but there was no meeting ground between the Indian side represented by the Congress and the Muslim League, the proponent of Pakistan. Mountbatten's arrival expedited Britain's exit. The Indian Independence Act was ratified by the British Parliament and granted royal assent on July 18, 1947. After nearly two centuries of British colonial rule, the Act set the date for India's freedom as August 15, 1947. Pakistan was accorded independence a day earlier so as to facilitate Mountbatten's participation in the ceremonies of both the countries.

Defining borders

The complex process of demarcating borders between India and Pakistan - particularly in Punjab and Bengal - was done in a hurry in just a month. All stakeholders wanted to wrap it up before independence day though they did not have the expertise to do so. They all knew it would lead to humongous human displacement and unprecedented bloodletting and communal riots but figured it was unavoidable. In the end, an estimated 1-2 million people were massacred in the riots that followed and over 15 million others were uprooted due to partition.

The task to draw boundary lines in Punjab and Bengal was given to Sir Cyril Radcliffe, a British jurist. He headed two boundary commissions, one for Punjab and the other for Bengal though he had no prior knowledge of India. His arrival in the country on July 8, 1947 was his first-ever trip this side. There were some who thought his unfamiliarity would make him a neutral arbitrator. Each commission had five members, all jurists - two each from the Hindu side and the Muslim League besides Radcliffe. In other words, Radcliffe had the deciding vote on all matters, which he used at whim. He did his cartography - the Radcliffe line - that was not always based on demographic data without ever visiting the lands he mechanically split. His maps for the two states were ready by August 9 and 14 but were made public two days after independence on August 17.

Challenges of princely states

The partition of India and the question of integrating princely states were intertwined. Before partition, there were over 550 princely states that had a semi-autonomous status. The Indian Independence Act gave them the choice to align with India or Pakistan or stay independent. The decision had to be made depending on the geographical contiguity and the preferences of their populations. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's deputy prime minister, integrated most of the princely states with the Indian Union. Through a combination of diplomatic negotiation, persuasion, and, in some cases, military intervention, he nudged them towards Indian rule with the promise of privy purses.

However, the princely states of Hyderabad and Junagadh didn't want to play ball.

Junagadh in present-day Gujarat was ruled by Nawab Muhammad Mahabat Khan III. Despite having a predominantly Hindu population, the Nawab chose to integrate with Pakistan, sparking widespread unrest. Indian forces intervened and a subsequent plebiscite saw Junagadh becoming part of the country. In Hyderabad, Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan aspired for independence but faced pressure due to his state's geographical location as well as its Hindu majority population. In September 1948, Patel launched a military operation, which resulted in the integration of Hyderabad with the Indian Union after a four-day war.

In Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh was the ruler of the Muslim-majority state. He preferred independence but after tribal mercenaries sent by Pakistan invaded Kashmir, he acceded to India. A part of J&K was saved in that first Indo-Pak war.

Constitutional monarchy to democratic republic

With India attaining independence, a Constituent Assembly formed on December 9, 1946 by the interim government took charge of its governance. Its members served as the country's provisional Parliament till they drafted a new Constitution. The Constituent Assembly had 389 members representing various regions, communities and interests. Dr Rajendra Prasad served as its President and Dr B R Ambedkar chaired the drafting committee of the Constitution.

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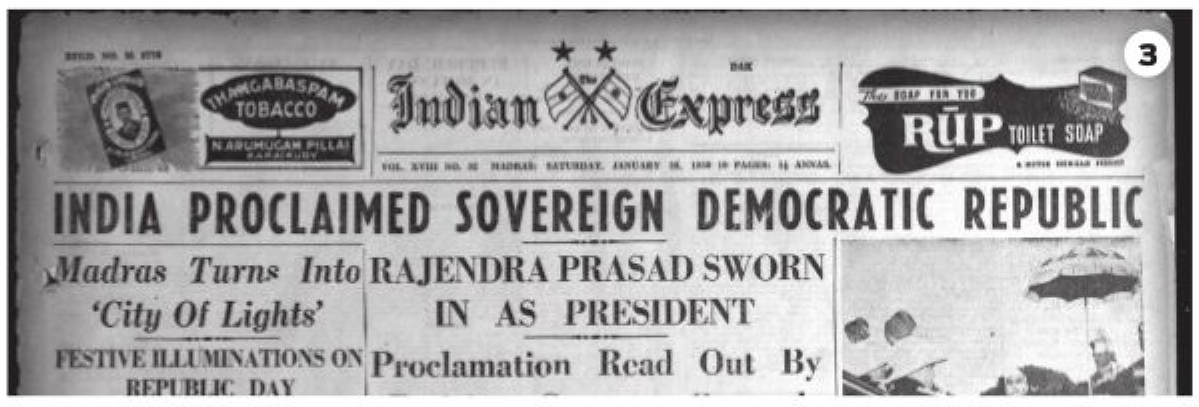

3

Indian Express

INDIA PROCLAIMED SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Madras Turns Into 'City Of Lights'

FESTIVE ILLUMINATIONS ON REPUBLIC DAY

RAJENDRA PRASAD SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT

Proclamation Read Out By

1) Constitution of India being signed by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. 2) C Rajagopalachari with Deputy PM Sardar Patel at the Government House in New Delhi on April 28, 1949. 3) Express clipping of India becoming a Republic

After the drafting committee put out an initial draft, the Constituent Assembly engaged in extensive debates to strike a balance between diverse interests. It drew inspiration from a variety of sources, including the constitutions of other nations and principles of liberty, equality and fraternity. The Indian Constitution emerged as one of the world's most comprehensive documents.

The final draft was adopted on November 26, 1949. On January 26, 1950, at 10.18 am, the last Governor-General Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, proclaimed India as a Republic as the Constitution came into force at that moment. It signified India's shift from a constitutional monarchy to a democratic republic.

Tricolour, National Anthem

Weeks before independence, on July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly chose the saffron-white-green Tricolour with the Ashoka Chakra at the centre as the national flag, replacing the spinning wheel in the Congress flag. On January 24, 1950, Dr Rajendra Prasad, president of the Constituent Assembly, announced Jana Gana Mana as the national anthem and Vande Mataram as national song, assuring both would get equal status.

Linguistic identities

Amid the horrors of partition, young India's journey had just begun. There were fresh challenges, such as addressing the demands for carving out new states on linguistic lines. It culminated in the enactment of the State Reorganisation Act of 1956.

For example, Madras State, which encompassed parts of present-day Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Telangana, was broken up. Andhra Pradesh was initially carved out of Madras State on October 1, 1953, for its Telugu-speaking population. Three years later, it was amalgamated with Telangana (formerly part of Hyderabad State) in 1956, resulting in the creation of united Andhra Pradesh. States of united Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala were created on November 1, 1956. But Andhra had an uneasy marriage and on June 2, 2014, Telangana broke off citing regional disparities and perceived neglect. The reorganisation of Bombay State, too, was propelled by linguistic disparities. It was split into Gujarat and Maharashtra on May 1, 1960. Other new states like Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were created by and by.

Universal adult franchise

Among the perceptive bets the Constituent Assembly took was to follow the principle of universal adult franchise despite widespread illiteracy among the masses. The inaugural general elections in India took place in 1951-1952 with all citizens aged 21 and above getting their right to cast their vote. Contrast that with countries like Switzerland that gave women voting rights only after a referendum in 1971, and the foresight of the Indian Constitution's founding fathers stands out like a beacon of wisdom.

UNDERSTANDING

PAKISTAN'S FLAWED DEMOCRACY

T K VINEETH @ Kochi

IF there was a competition among countries for arresting former prime ministers, Pakistan would win hands down. As the country is getting into election mode, ex-PM Imran Khan will be conspicuous by his absence. He is lodged in Attock prison after a court sentenced him to three years in jail in a corruption case.

Imran is the seventh former premier to be arrested in Pakistan. The other six who were incarcerated for various reasons in the past are Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy (1962), Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (1974), Benazir Bhutto (1985 and again in 1986), Nawaz Sharif (1999, 2007), Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (2019) and Shehbaz Sharif (2020).

The charges against them, in most cases drafted by the military leadership, would appear as bogus and silly as they come, with the obvious intention of keeping them out of power for some time or even banishing them from power, politics, and - in rare cases - life. For instance, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy was thrown behind bars on charges of 'anti-state activities'.

His actual crime: refusal to support the then military ruler General Ayub Khan. The jail experience shattered him and after release, he moved to Lebanon where he spent the rest of his life. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, however, was not that lucky. Arrested for conspiracy to murder a political opponent, he was sentenced to death and hanged.

The Imran story

Imran Ahmad Khan Niazi, who became PM with the Army's blessings, was ironically thrown out of power after his fallout with the powerful military brass. He was ousted as PM in April last year via a dramatic no-trust vote, which was first dismissed by the National Assembly deputy speaker but later restored by Pakistan Supreme Court.

After losing power, Imran set out to push for early elections, playing the victim card and stepping up rhetoric. He levelled startling accusations against the US, claiming Washington put pressure on the Pak army to keep him out of power due to his 'independent foreign policy decision' to bolster ties with Russia.

Days after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Imran had travelled to Moscow to woo the Russians. The trip was planned long back but Imran went ahead and met Vladimir Putin, upsetting power centres at home and abroad. He refused to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine to boot.

Demanding that elections be held immediately, Imran held rallies across the country, whipping up nationalism and drawing huge crowds. He took on the powerful military empire, claiming a top ISI official was behind the assassination attempt targeting him in November 2022. The reckless verbal attacks kept him in the limelight and in a way shored up his popularity, but they triggered a sharp statement from the military rubbishing the charges as baseless. A day after the army's strongly worded response, on May 9, 2023, Imran was arrested from inside the Islamabad High Court, where he had gone in connection with the hearing of one of the cases against him. Dramatic visuals from the court showed Pakistan Rangers, the paramilitary law enforcement corps, using brute force to enter the court by smashing window panes and breaking open doors to arrest the politician.

The brutal manner in which the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief was arrested from the court premises evoked questions about the legality of the action but the court ruled that the arrest, ordered by the anti-corruption body called National Accountability Bureau was in accordance with law. Following this, PTI cadre took to the streets and turned violent, clashing with police and attacking government properties and ransacked even the army headquarters. Later, the Supreme Court ordered his release terming the arrest illegal.

Toshakhana case

However, the other cases against him were still unfolding. On August 5, he was convicted in the Toshakhana case, being charged with selling the expensive gifts he received from heads of states during his foreign trips as PM but failing to disclose the income thus generated, which is a criminal offence. On August 8, Pakistan's election commission formally disqualified him for five years, which means he won't be able to contest in the upcoming general elections.

For his part, the PTI leader has been maintaining that he has done nothing wrong and that he legally bought the gifts from Toshakhana, the government depository, terming the cases against him politically motivated. His lawyers moved the Islamabad High Court against his conviction, but failed to get an interim relief. The court is likely to decide on the matter within a week. Even if it gives a favourable verdict, it may not be of much relief because there are some 100 other cases pending against the cricketer-turned-politician on various charges including corruption, sedition, terrorism and even blasphemy. It is likely that he will be convicted in some of them, which will keep him ineligible to participate in elections for a long time.

Method in the madness

His supporters believe their leader was pushed to the corner through a series of events that were carefully orchestrated. While Imran has claimed he was targeted for his independent foreign policy that was at variance with the interest of the US, Pakistan's long-time ally, his ouster came as natural corollary of his bid to control the military affairs, including promotions. In 2021, he publicly opposed army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's decision to appoint Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum as the ISI chief, replacing Lt Gen Faiz Hameed. Imran wanted the incumbent to continue as the head spook. Gen Bajwa's writ prevailed and Imran's ouster came barely six months later.

In Pakistan's history, no PM has completed full term. And Imran's unceremonious exit has kept that dubious track record intact.

Elections and crises

The Pakistan Parliament consists of the President and two Houses - National Assembly (lower house) and Senate (upper house). Under the country's laws, general elections must be held within 60 days after the National Assembly (NA) completes its term or 90 days if it is dissolved prematurely. On August 10, 2023, Pakistan President Arif Alvi prematurely dissolved NA on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Which would mean the election should be held by the first week of November. However, the date may be pushed back as the election will be based on the new census data but the delimitation process will take at least four more months to complete.

This will unfold another crisis, as the caretaker government will have to then rule for a longer period rather than the mandated three months. While Imran's party alleges Sharif is delaying elections because now the public sentiment is in favour of the jailed leader, analysts say this could be to avoid the huge financial burden the polls could pile on the already fragile economy.

Hand-to-mouth existence

Amid the ongoing political instability, Pakistan's economy is diving from bad to worse. Inflation is at record levels with petrol and essential food items costing a bomb. The price of wheat flour, the staple diet, has shot up to Rs 320 a kg, while that of a litre of petrol has gone past Rs 272.

Pakistan has managed to get around \$7.7 billion funding from friendly nations such Saudi Arabia, UAE and China. It has also secured an urgent, short-term bailout package from IMF to the tune of \$3 billion, which may keep the economy floating for a while but big challenges remain. Barely a month ago, Pakistan had witnessed its foreign reserves depleting to less than one month's worth of imports and it was about to default on its external debt. It has to repay as much as \$25 billion in debt repayments in 2023-24.

What next

There are three major parties in the fray for elections. Imran Khan's PTI, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) led by incumbent PM Sharif and Pakistan People's Party led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Going by history, Pakistan is expected go strictly as per the Army's script, and former PM Nawaz Sharif, the incumbent PM's brother, may stage a comeback.

Whoever becomes the next premier, he or she will have the unenviable task of steering a collapsing economy and improving domestic security. According to IMF's projections, the country will take a "considerable time" to get back on its feet, let alone progress. Till then, political crises will continue to entertain the neighbours.

And, of course, Imran will not be the last former Pakistan PM to be arrested.

BUYING TIME FOR POLLS

Pakistan's National Assembly was dissolved on August 9, two days before its tenure was to end. Had it been dissolved on August 11, the law would have made elections mandatory in 60 days. Early dissolution gave the government 90 days to hold polls, again by the same law. But will it be held within three months?

FURTHER DELAY

The latest national census that was approved recently added a new element to the dilatory tactics. It's mandatory for the election commission undertake a delimitation of constituencies once the census is approved. The process could easily take 4-7 months. Then there is the task of preparing new poll rolls. In other words, polls could happen only next year

WHO BENEFITS

The ruling coalition and the military hope the arrest of Imran Khan would put him out of sight and out of mind of the voters. They would want to put off polls till they are convinced the Imran factor would not influence the outcome of the polls

THE CATCH

Imran has a loyal band of young followers who appreciate his standing up to the military establishment. Putting them out of business is not easy. Remember Indira Gandhi ordered national elections during Emergency in 10977 assuming the jailed Opposition had been vanquished. But she was trounced at the hustings.

NEW CARETAKER PM

Pakistani senator Anwaar-ul-haq Kakar has been named caretaker PM. He is said to be a staunch supporter of the military, so he can be expected to further its agenda.